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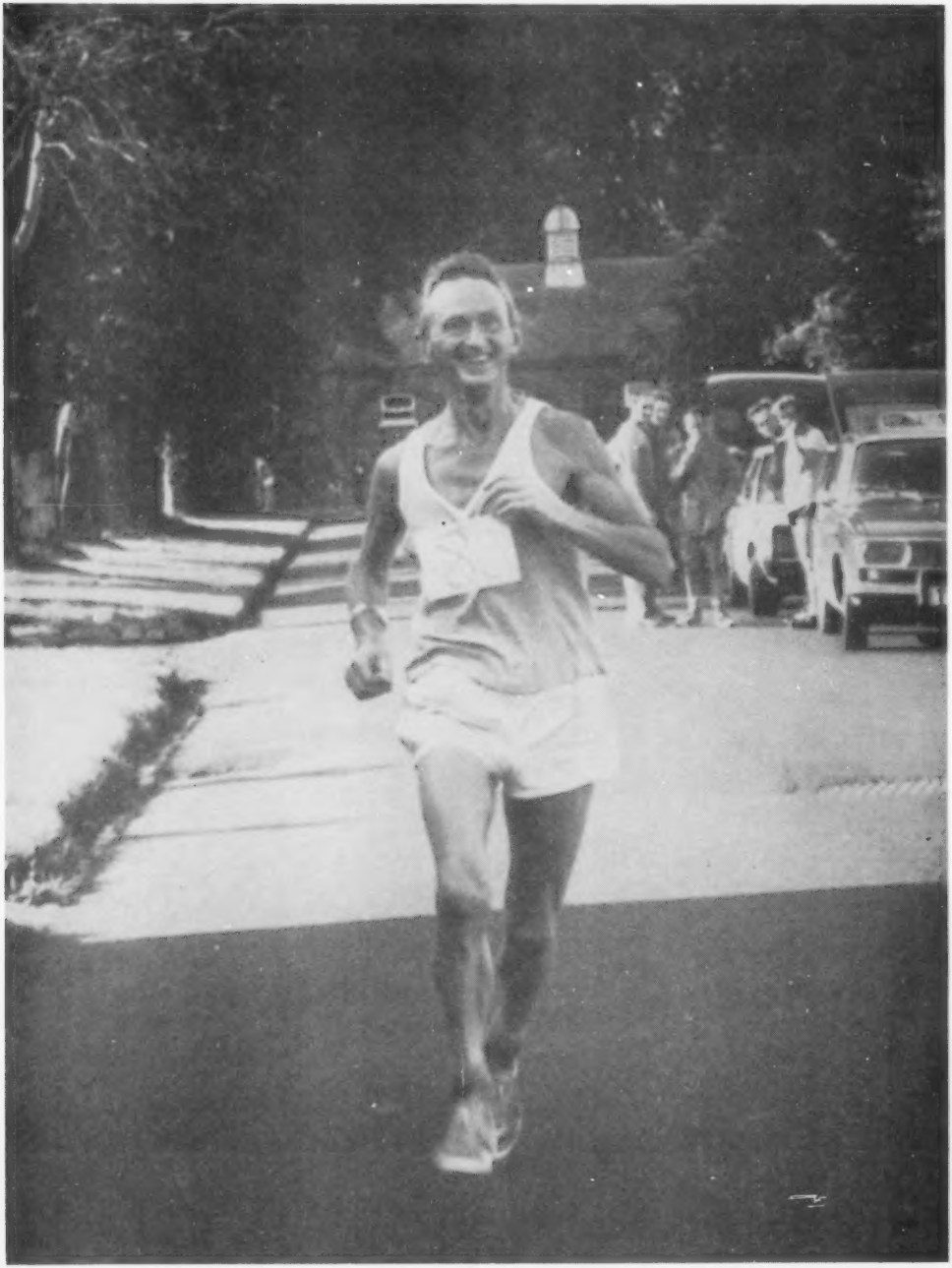

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**ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

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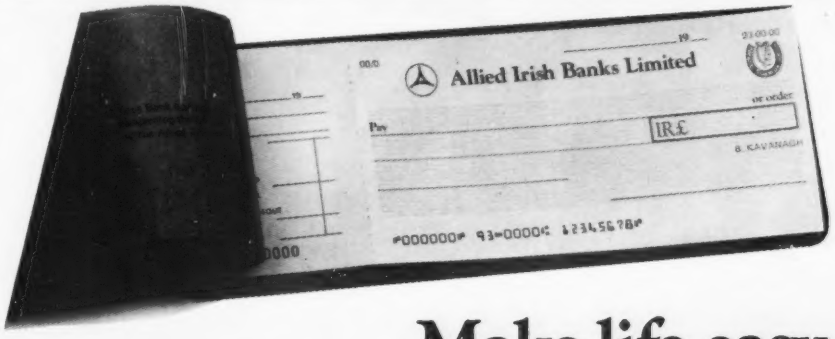


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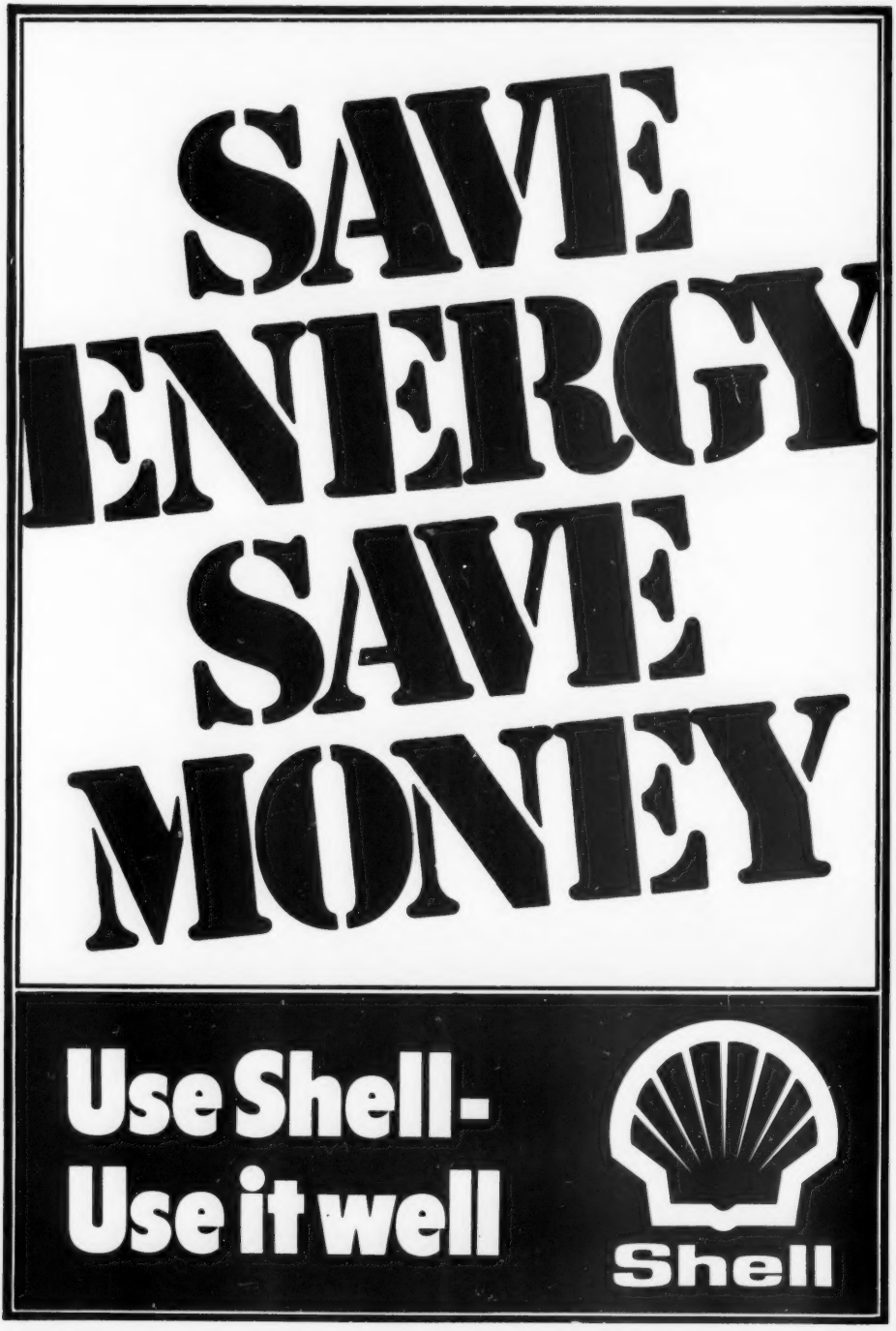
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# UNSUNG HEROES

**By Comdt. Padraic O'Farrell**

A recent letter of mine to a number of newspapers invited certain information on the period of our history from 1916 to 1921 and brought a staggering result. The query was part of my research for a book on the period and it sought details of previously undocumented involvement in the struggle. Day after day the postman brought mail containing proud claims from survivors' relatives and friends. Some of the details concerned major incidents but most of them were associated with people who played their own part in the conflict of that time and who received little or no recognition since. In many cases a friend or relative spoke on behalf of a reticent veteran.

Like Bridgid Gallagher of Curraghboy, Co. Roscommon. Bridgid talked in her spotless bungalow. She told of her teacher who informed them of the events of 1916 and later organised the making of banners and flags for the Harry Boland South Roscommon election campaign of 1919. She spoke highly of the Brennans and of their activities in Roscommon. Her husband Paddy took coaxing before he told of filling shotgun cartridges with pieces of lead to make them more lethal. He described his capture and internment after the Scramogue Ambush of 23 March, 1921.

In Pentonville prison he was friendly with the leader of the West Cork Brigade, Tom Hales and he recounted Tom's description of his capture by the Essex Regiment.

**The Connollys**

Sean Connolly's death as he commanded the City Hall garrison at the commencement of Easter Week hostilities in Dublin is well documented. But four of Sean's brothers and one sister, all members of the Citizen Army, also took part, all but Joseph (who was a member of the St. Stephen's Green Garrison) in the same area. George was a member of the party that overpowered the Castle guard, tying them up with their own puttees.

Veteran Matt Connolly explains that, contrary to many accounts, Seán was not shot while raising the tricolour over the City Hall. He points out that the Municipal Flag was already flying and that Sean was fifty yards away from the Flagpole when shot.

Henry Cassidy recalls West Cavan activities. He tells of a Swanlinbar ambush, of Frank Cassidy and Tom Davey, John and Willie Kelly, Pat McGovern and many others. Cavanman James Connolly, later active in the United States, is remembered by Mrs. Margaret Mooreland of Abbeyleix, herself a messenger for the old IRA during the War.

Kilmacthomas Co. Waterford remembers the Comeragh Battalion and Sean Fitzgerald as well as the Keating brothers. Pat Keating was Commandant of the West Waterford Brigade and was killed at an ambush at Burgery, Dungarvan on 19 March, 1921. Thomas was Commandant of the 2nd Battalion of the Brigade and was killed during the Civil War.

Mayo remembers John 'Morrissy' Grealy. John Joyce recalls the Carrowkennedy Ambush and the shooting of Thomas Lyons.

English-based people write to tell of portraits seen in guest houses, pictures of men in uniform who 'must have been officers because of their splendid uniforms.'

**Hospital Ward**

Male No. 1 Ward of St. John's Hospital in Sligo could form its own Flying Column under the energetic and co-operative Sister Raphael Wynne whose uncle, Pay Wynne of Culleenboy, Co. Roscommon was shot in his home and whose father was badly beaten during a Black and Tan raid.

There is Michael Joe Davey of Carraroe who was Adjutant to Liam Pilkington. Active too was Hugh Maguire from Tullaghan — on the smallest county coastline in Ireland, Leitrim's 4,400 yards!

John Finn of Ballymote served with the British Army from 1915 to 1918 in Egypt, Salonica and Palestine. Like many of his contemporaries, his expertise was in demand on his return home. He instructed the Sligo IRA in riflemarksmanship and machine gun drill. He still sings a strong ballad.

Jovial, lucid and quick-witted — that's Tom Kilcoyne of Achonry near Tubbercurry. Tom rises to Sister Raphael's encouragements and talks with great affection of Brigadier Frank Carty whose close associate he was. Carty, of course, escaped from Derry jail in February 1921 but Tom himself almost escaped from Sligo jail too by digging a tunnel from the cookhouse with Martin Kileen, Jim Ganley and Charlie Kildea. Tom laughs at Capt. Hunt's being mistaken for Carty after a raid for arms on Major Percival's house at Templehouse and tells of their excitement when marching to Tubbercurry in 1916 in hope of receiving some of the arms that were to have been landed by Roger Casement. Among many others throughout the country remembered by relatives or friends are: Paddy Henry of Old Rock, Ballymote, Patrick Duane of Clash, Co. Cork who served with the West Limerick Brigade; Bryan Roughan and John Gardner of Colmanstown who served with Liam Mellows; Sean Dowling of Gilbertstown, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath, Charlie and Michael Darcy of Gloucester Street, Dublin.

**Neglected**

Mention of Dublin brings to mind a neglected although not forgotten figure of the War. Kevin Barry has been honoured in history book, in song and in story. Yet another young student was hanged

F. X. Flood, 1st Lt., ASU Dublin Bde. Old I.R.A. (The negative of this photograph, taken for official purposes in Mountjoy before his execution, was found in Dublin Castle after its evacuation by the Black & Tans).

Thomas Keating, Comeragh, Kilmacthomas. Comdt. 2 Bn., Waterford Bde., Old I.R.A.

at Kilmainham on 14 March, 1921 whose name is seldom mentioned. Lieutenant Frank Flood was one of an ambush party that were informed upon and captured at Clonturk Park in January, 1921. They were awaiting a British Army Crossley tender journeying to Dublin but as it approached they were surrounded by Dublin Metropolitan Police constables.

Five others were hanged with Frank, including Galway's Thomas Whelan and Boyle's Paddy Moran who was so convinced of his innocence, it is said, that he gave his place in a successful escape bid to a fellow-prisoner.

Pat McCarthy of Cork, served with the First Battalion of the South Roscommon Brigade; James Carty was active with the Athlone Brigade; Jerry O'Dwyer with Mid-Clare, Tom Linehan with Bantry Volunteers. A Donegal correspondent tells a tale of a stepmother turning informer on her husband's son.

Art O'Muireaduig, Jack Young and Thomas Noctor of Dublin, Tom Linehan of Tramore, P. J. Henehan of Fethard, sometimes hostage and bodyguard to Eamon de Valera; Joe Ring of Westport, Frank O'Rourke, John McWeeney and Paddy Whelan of South Leitrim Brigade — the names and the stories go on and on.

One of the loveliest anecdotes from the war concerns those Leitrim men and comes from Noreen O'Rourke in Rochford Hospital, Essex.

When 'on the run' they came to a secret rendezvous to have their confessions heard by a sympathetic priest in the bedroom of a private house. After receiving their penance they were offered a drink from a bottle of whiskey which the priest kept beside him. Some refused but Frank O'Rourke accepted, drank the **smathan** and was offered another with the encouraging words: 'Go on, take it. You'll need it where you are going!'

And the drop offered to Frank O'Rourke reminds me of space demanding that only the aforegoing drop in the ocean of recollections that flowed to me can be alluded to here.

Some of the information received from correspondents has been included in my manuscript. That contained here came from the first contacts made or from those with whom I had an opportunity to request and receive permission to include them in this article or to elaborate on details.

To those whose information may not appear either in the completed book or elsewhere I offer my apologies and the assurance of my gratitude for their interest and co-operation — a gratitude that echoes that of thousands of another generation for the involvement of these people in events that were taking place here sixty years ago.

*Comdt. O'Farrell is about to have a book entitled "Who's Who in the Irish War of Independence, 1916-1921" published by the Mercier Press.*

# 21st ANNIVERSARY 21 BN.

2/Lt. J. M. Scannell

Capt. B. Hayden, Coy. Comdr. 'A' Coy. 21 Bn. F.C.A. cuts the birthday cake which commemorates the coming of age of the 21 Bn. F.C.A. The cake, after being cut, was distributed to the members of the Unit.

Mrs. K. Geraghty accepting the Bar for her late husbands Service Medal (Capt. J. M. Geraghty) from Comdt. M. Minehane.

A 21st anniversary is always a special occasion and last Wednesday, October 1st, it was the turn of the 21 Inf. Bn. F.C.A., whose headquarters are Rockbrae House, Bray, to celebrate the 21st anniversary of its formation.

As part of the Army policy of integration, on October 1st, 1959 the existing North and South Wicklow Bn's and the South County Dublin Bn. were merged to form the 21 Inf. Bn. The boundaries of the new unit were Arklow in the south and Dun Laoghaire in the north. This area was divided amongst the 3 Coys. of the Bn.

'A' Coy. based in Bray at Bn. Headquarters covers Bray, Shankill, Greystones and Newtownmountkennedy. 'B' Coy. based in Dun Laoghaire covers Dun Laoghaire. and the surrounding area. 'C' Coy. based in Wicklow covers Wicklow, Arklow, Rathdrum and the surrounding areas.

In 1960 the 21 Inf. Bn. was part of the 2 Bde. and annual camps were held in Gormanstown. When the Eastern Command was re-organised the 21 Inf. Bn. became part of the 6 Bde, the annual camps were switched to Kilkenny. In 1968 the military barracks in Waterford was opened to the F.C.A. and annual camps have been held there ever since. An added bonus for those attending annual camp in Waterford is that the city is near the seaside resort of Tramore where members can avail of the holiday facilities.

Ceremonials have always been part of the 21 Inf. Bn's life and every year Guards of Honour have been provided during annual camp for various high ranking army officers who have visited the Bn. over the years. In 1968 the Bn. had the honour of providing a Guard of Honour in the grounds of Presentation College, Bray, for the late President Eamonn De Valera and the Officer i/c was Comdt. B. Smyth. Again in 1975 the Bn. provided a Guard of Honour at Bray Town Hall for the late President C. O'Dalaigh who was in Bray to unveil a sculpture in the grounds of Presentation College. The Officer i/c on this occasion was Capt. B. Hayden. In addition to the above, Guards of Honour and Colour Parties have been provided for many religious and civil functions. A sadder ceremonial task has been the provision of graveside firing parties for members of the Bn. who died while serving in an Forsa.

One of the current high spots in the 'A' Coy. year is Bray's St. Patrick's Day Parade where the national colours are carried by Unit members and every year the Unit has provided a body of men for the parade carrying the Bn. pennants. While the North and South Wicklow Bn.'s and South County Dublin Bn. no longer exist, these units have not been forgotten. Throughout the year the colours of these units stand on display in the Bn. Headquarters and are carried with the Bn. pennants in the St. Patrick's Day parade — a day on which former members of An Forsa renew aquaintances.

In addition to ceremonial the Bn. has had operational commitments. In 1970 the Unit was called on to provide security guards on vital installations due to the Northern trouble. The Bn. had the task of protecting Roundwood Reservoir and Callow Hill pumping station. Members of the Bn. relieved the regular soldiers for the weekends. This provided invaluable training for the men.

Even though the conditions were tough it was rare for members to cry off a detail — in fact members of the Unit were only too eager to be on details — and great stories about experiences of F.C.A. Guards at Roundwood are still told. Former Unit members will remember the loyalty and enthusiasm of all ranks who volunteered for this dangerous mission.

In 1971 'A' Coy. decided to build an assault course at Rockbrae House and the then Lt. A. Teevan, Lt. D. O'Toole and C.S. B. Murphy visited the Curragh assault course where they sketched and planned their own course. The course in Rockbrae House was built over three weekends by members of 'A' Coy. and is as fine a course as is to be found in the Eastern Command.

Tactical exercises have always been part of the Bn's activities and over the years the following exercises come to mind. "Operation Timmie" conducted outside Kilkenny in 1968 and organised by the late Capt. T. Conroy. In 1973 "Operation Glenview" was held in the Devil's Glen, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The exercise included the use of Panhard armoured personnel carriers, a helicopter and 300 F.C.A. Infantry troops. Again in 1978, the Bn. took part in "Operation Groupie" which was held near Belmont House in Kilruddery near Bray. In addition to the members of the 21 Inf. Bn. taking part, members of the 11th Motor Squadron, 11th Field Signal Coy., 11th Field Engineer Coy., 11th Field Supply and Transport Coy., 5th Field Military Police Coy., and 11th Field Medical Coy., had roles to play in this major exercise. The Bn. has also provided troops for Army exercises held over the years in the Dublin area.

Comdt. P. Kehoe, former Coy. Comdr. 'A' Coy. 21 Bn. F.C.A. is presented with the Bar to his Service Medal marking 21 years service in An Forsa, by the O/C 21 Bn. F.C.A. Comdt. M. Minehane.

21 years service with the 21 Bn. Comdt. R. Smyth, former Area Comdr. North Wicklow, shows the Bar to his Service Medal, marking 21 years service in An Forsa, to the sons of the late Capt. J. M. Geraghty.

Since the 21 Bn. is an Infantry Unit shooting has always been tightly contested by various teams drawn from the 3 Coys. and the best known shooting teams have been drawn from 'C' Coy. who regularly appear at the All Army F.C.A. Shoot held in the Curragh, every year.

The Rifle Team from 'C' Coy. have won all major events including the greatest — the All Army F.C.A. Shoot. They won the event under the command of Capt. H. Jordan and his then 2 i/c Lt. R. Conroy who also captained the Team to their glorious victory in 1973. The Team members on that occasion were Lt. R. Conroy, Team Captain, Sgt. B. Flynn from Wicklow town, Sgt. P. Foley from Arklow, Pte. Nolan from Glenmalure, Pte's McGrath and Parsons from Rathdrum and Pte. Halpin from Arklow.

In 1978, the L.M.G. team from 'C' Coy. won the All Army F.C.A. L.M.G. Shoot. The team under the command of the newly appointed Coy. Comdr. Capt. R. Conroy was Cpls. Murphy, Doyle T. And Pte. Nolan from Glenmalure. Pte. Nolan won the first Individual on that great day at the Curragh.

Finally a word of thanks to all the P.D.F. staff attached to the Bn. who over the past 21 years have done much to improve the lot of the F.C.A. man.

And so with the first 21 years over, the 21 Inf. Bn. now settles down to a second 21 year stretch in which it is hoped there will be much to remember when the Bn. celebrates its second coming of age on October 1st, 2001.

# Where Are They Now? — Series No. 9

Sgt. Billy Norton

**Cpl. Charlie Evenden National and Army Boxing Champion of the 1930's**

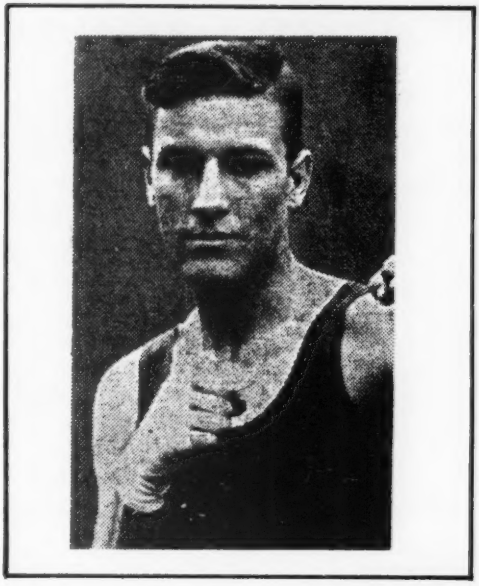
Kildare born Cpl. Charlie Evenden who brought honour to Ireland and the Army was one of the most stylish and scientific Amateur boxers of the thirties. As a boy he joined the Army School of Music in 1925. Seven years later he went to the 5th Bn. and joined the famous Collins Boxing Club under the late Comdt. M. Noone. Cpl. Evenden was the only Army man ever to represent Ireland in two European Championships (1937 and 1939). He captured his first title in 1933 winning the National Junior Light-Weight Championship. The following year he became the All-Army Senior Light-Weight Champion. He won his first International singlet against France on 22 July 1934 and represented Ireland on 22 occasions.

**Four Fights in one Day**

In April 1935 Cpl. Evenden appeared in London as a last minute substitute for Garda Ernie Smith in the Light-Weight division of the ABA Championships. He had four fights in one day — that's how they run the British Open Championships. Charlie started well and stopped W. Rees in the third round. He next met F. J. Simpson and inflicted on him the first ever defeat of his career. In the Semi-Final he disposed of A. Hedger and climbed into the ring a very tired man to meet F. Frost who won by the closest of margins. In 1936 Cpl. Evenden won the Leinster and Army Welter-Weight titles. One of his best performances was his win over the 1936 Olympic Welter-Weight Runner-Up Murach four months after he had taken his Silver Medal in Berlin. In his next outing Evenden had an equally notable success when he defeated Harrington in the Middle-Weight class in the Ireland v. England International at Portbello Bks. The Irish officials were on the spot for a Middle-Weight representative and Charlie, a genuine Welter-Weight, elected to take the ring. Today, this would be deemed as foolhardy, but Evenden has reason to look back on his performance with pride and satisfaction.

**In Europe and USA**

A decision rendered against him in the 1937 European Championships was one of the rarest ever experienced by one of our Internationals. Agren, the Swede got the verdict and it is sufficient to say that one popular Italian newspaper *(Populo D'Itala)* said "the judges made a bad bloomer when they awarded the decision against the Irishman." The same year Cpl. Evenden beat Const. W. Gallagher RUC, the Irish and Scottish Welter-Weight Champion of 1937. In May 1938 he was selected to represent Ireland in USA, on the 10 of May in Boston he beat Tony Vento on points. Two days later in New York, boxing as a Middle Weight he defeated Joe Di Carlo. In the International Tournament held on the 18th May, Massachusetts, he knocked out E. Dufresne. In 1939 he won his first senior title. Although he had been six years in the forefront of Irish Boxing he always claimed that his defeat of Tommy Byrne of St. Andrews in the final was his greatest victory. In the European Championship held in April 1939 in the first series he beat A. Rossi of Finland but in the semi-Final he met the ultimate winner the redoubtable Koleyznsi of Poland. After a gallant display of pluck and endurance Cpl. Evenden went out of the Championship beaten but not disgraced. The great boxer won his last Army title in 1940 when he won the All-Army Middle-Weight Championship. That year also marked the end of his glorious career. When asked who was the greatest boxer he ever met his answer was the great Ernie Smyth, the one man he could not beat. Cpl. Charlie Evenden who compared with our best of any era will long be remembered as one of the most stylish boxers of the thirties.



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# THE ROMAN ARMY

Lieut. Col. E. D. Doyle

THE history of both Republican and Imperial Rome is dominated by the Roman Army. For most of the time its training, organization and discipline made it superior to the tribal and horde forces thrown against it. Likening the British Army of Victorian times to the Roman legions used to be fashionable. This hardly stands up to examination. As Kipling admitted "We sloshed 'em with Martinis, which wasn't hardly fair" (He did not mean the drink). The Romans won their wars in hand-to-hand fighting against similarly equipped and often numerically superior forces. They developed good siege equipment. But it was the discipline, training, organization and morale of the legions that got them through desperate situations and spread Roman rule, for good or ill, from Hadrian's Wall to the Tigris.

There are several good modern studies of the Roman Army. Professor Michael Grant's "Army of the Caesars" is particularly useful. It starts in the last years of the Republic and finishes after A.D. 476, when "the Western State and Army were no more". Such modern studies, based on much research and archaelogical discovery, can give us a very detailed picture. Apart from the interplay of military and political interest always present in conquering states, there was the pre-occupation with the German's, Romanised and allied West of the Rhine, free and menacing East of it. Over the years the legions became functional fighting machines, with great engineering and constructional abilities. Each legion had a life and comradeship of its own. The medals, standards, trumpets, distinguishing marks, parades and sonorous regimental titles (and the institution of Orderly Officer) that are still part of our lives as soldiers, started in the Roman Army.

## Tracing the Legions

Dr. Eric Birley has written a very interesting description of the officer promotion system in the Roman Army. He was one of the brilliant academics whom the British services used so successfully as intelligence officers during the last war. He made some remarkably correct predictions about likely promotions amongst German officers and is said to have pieced together the 1940 German order of Battle to within one division. This was done by systematic tabulation, and comparison and interpretation of known data. In similar fashion he tabulated common points in hundreds of excavated Roman grave-stone inscriptions.

Building up a picture of the legions through "Epigraphy", i.e. inscriptions on columns, gravestones, tablets and coins is not everyone's idea of a fascinating job. But it has been done. It is now

possible to trace the movements of almost every legion. The information that used to be shown in the back of school editions of Caesers commentaries can be greatly expanded nowadays but modern Latin text-books are much more attractive than those of 40 years ago.

## Names from the Past

History has little to say about Roman soldiers as individuals. We tend to think of them as brutal, illiterate and ruthless. Perhaps — but names and careers of many of them remain with us after 2000 years. These appear in inscriptions carved by their comrades and are to be found wherever the Roman Eagles were carried. That comradeship held them together in long marches and exhausting battles throughout the known world. One can see a number of inscriptions amongst the Roman ruins at Bath. This writer copied one several years ago:

> 'Julius Vitalis, craftsman of XX Legion "Valeria Victri", of 9 years service, 29 years old, from the Belgic tribe. Buried at the expense of the Workshop. Here he lies.'

## Training

Descriptions of Roman training remind one of Wavell's views on the subject. Recruits trained with shields and wooden staves twice the weight of combat shields and swords. They practiced for long hours against a stake. Target practice, running, jumping and tree-felling alternated with stake work. Three times a month there were long route

marches, 'on which the pace varied from normal to a rapid trot'. Josephus said 'They never have a truce from training, never wait for emergencies to arise . . . their peace exercises are no less strenuous than veritable warfare . . . hence that perfect ease with which they sustain the shock of battle. No confusion breaks their formation, no panic paralyses, no fatigue exhausts them . . .'

**Reforms**

Entirely 'Italian' in Republican times, the Army gradually became "provincialized". By Trajan's time, according to Grant, provincial troops predominated. Although the Army was much misused by ambitious leaders for personal ends it was almost always capable of reform. There seems always to have been a concensus about the over-riding need for training and discipline not only amongst the officers but amongst the soldiers themselves. Julius Caesar both misused and improved the Army. Augustus reduced the number of legions, and very carefully balanced the Army's strength against its dispositions, to ensure that it could not threaten him. He also carried out many reforms, especially at centurion level. In his more recent book on Julius Caesar Grant places the centurion, in our terms as partly company commander, partly very senior NCO. He was the keystone of the system. 'For I also am a man subject to authority, having under me soldiers . . .' How the words ring, after 2000 years.

**The Soldier's Emperor**

Hadrian, to whom Christian historians have been unfair, seems to have been one of those rare phenomena — a reformer and an original thinker in both civil and military matters. He came from Spain — in some ways the most Romanized province. He abandoned Trajan's undefensible conquests and concentrated on civil and military re-organization. Unlike Augustus he stayed close to his troops; they re-paid him with loyalty and devotion. He knew that the Empire depended upon the Army and upon a proper relationship between Rome and the provinces, and he acted accordingly. He was a great man by any standard. (Mlle. Yourcenaer, who recently became the first woman to be elected to the French Academy, reconstructed his life in her prize winning 'Memoirs of Hadrian' a fascinating book which made her a great reputation.)

**Plus ca Change**

Hadrian could find time for details and for "sharing the soldiers' tasks, knowing all about their private affairs, their lives, their quarters, and their habits." In Algeria (then Numidia) a column still stands carrying excerpts from five addresses Hadrian gave during an inspection in the heat of July A.D. 68. To the III Legion "Augusta" he said:-

"My representative (legatus) has told me . . . all the allowances I ought to make for you — that a cohort is away, that every year postings are made . . . that you gave a cohort and four men from each century to reinforce your sister legion, that many various guard duties strain your strength, that you have twice not only changed your camp but built a new one. For these reasons I would have excused you if the legion had long ago abandoned manoeuvres. But you have not . . . your officers and centurions were active and vigorous" (Professor Grant's translation).

This continuation of realistic training, even under difficulties, in that remote outpost on the edge of the world, was very Roman. In Rome's great period it was believed that "morale sprang from discipline and hard training and could not be bought."

**One Good Custom**

Misuse of the Army for the personal ambitions of strong men destroyed the old Roman concept of the state. During the grim civil wars, "Tacitus knew that the two most terrible things in the world were autocracy and civil war; and the second could only be prevented by the first." A historic dilemma which is still with us in many parts of the world. Eventually the Army elected and controlled the Emperors. Seeing many parallels in the modern "coup d'etat states" Prof. Grant says "It was due to the Army that the empire went on and on. But it was also due to the Army that internal stability never was and never could be achieved."

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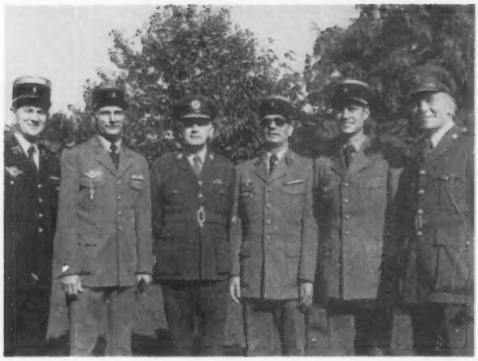
# EASTERN COMMAND

Bishop Lennon who recently presented Sgt. A. Egerton with a silver pioneer pin to mark 33 years of total abstinence. *L/R* Lt. Col. J. Enright OC 27 Inf. Bn., Fr. H. McGowen CF, Bishop Lennon, Sgt. A. Egerton and Comdt. J. Harold. (Photo: Sgt. J. Gallagher)

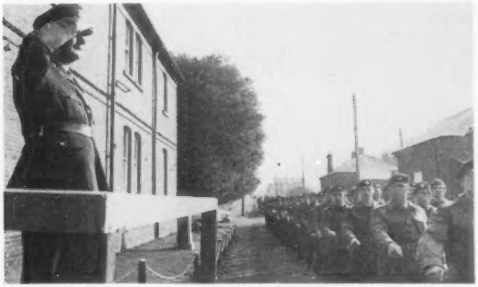
Bishop Lennon inspects a Guard of Honour drawn from the 27 Inf. Bn. Dundalk during his visit to the Bks. He is accompanied by Lt. G. McGinley i/c Gd. of Honour and Lt. Col. J. Enright O/C 27 Inf. Bn. (Photo: Sgt. A. Egerton).

# CURRAGH COMMAND

Staff of the NCOs School GTD with the thirty six students who completed the 13 Senior NCOs Course. *Front Row L. to R:* F/Sgt. Collins, Sgt. Murphy, Sgt. O'Sullivan, Capt. Sheehan, Comdt. Burke, CQMS Keogh, Lt. Butler, Sgt. Sullivan, Sgt. T. O'Sullivan, Sgt. Wall, Sgt. Finn. *Second Row L. to R:* SPO Bradley, Sgt. Gilmartin, Sgt. Manning, Sgt. Thompson, PO O'Driscoll, Sgt. Peppard, Sgt. O'Reilly, Sgt. Crawford, Sgt. Halpin, Sgt. O'Sullivan, Sgt. Dalton, Sgt. O'Connor, Sgt. Devanney. *Back Row L. to R:* Sgt. Sweeney, Sgt. Moran, Sgt. McManus, Sgt. McCabe, Sgt. Horgan, Sgt. Cope, Sgt. McGrath, Sgt. Ennis, Sgt. Griffin, Sgt. Hurley, Sgt. Noughton, Sgt. Mills, Sgt. Folan, Sgt. Coy.



During a visit by French officers to the Curragh, *L/R* Lt. Col. Lamballe, Col. Dietrich, Col. Fagan, (A/GOC C/Comd.), Comdt. Barbeaux, Comdt. Lierville, Lt. Col. Nagle. (Photo: O. McCrossan).



Col. J. Fagan, A/GOC, C. Comd., reviews troops of the C. Comd. prior to their departure for the Lebanon. (Photo: O. McCrossan).

**PRESENTATION TO AMBULANCE PERSONNEL**

Councillor Dan Browne, Chairman, Eastern Health Board, presented certificates and badges to Ambulance Personnel from all over the country who have completed a five week National Course on First Aid for Ambulance Personnel at a function in Cherry Orchard Hospital, Dublin, Thursday, 6th November, 1980. **L. to R.:** Mr. Tom Brady, Chief Ambulance Officer, Eastern Health Board; Sgt. Maj. Frank Fagan; Dr. Malachy Powell, Department of Health, Chairman Ambulance Services Committee; Councillor Dan Browne, Chairman, Eastern Health Board; M. Kelly and Sgt. P. Hinchy, Army Medical Corps. (Photo courtesy Eastern Health Board)

Lt. Kieran Brennan and Ms. Maria Clarke who were married in St. Conleths Church, Newbridge. (Photo: O. McCrossan).

Comdt. D. Flood, OC B. Coy. 48 Bn., Fr. P. Daly CF and Comdt. R. Roche prior to their departure for the Lebanon. (Photo: O. McCrossan).

# WESTERN COMMAND

Sgt. P. McCrossan, Fl. Sgt. C. Coy. 48 Bn. UNIFIL who is currently on his fifth UN trip. He enlisted in 1962. In 1964 he was in the Congo with the 39th Inf. Bn. He has also served with UNFICYP (Cyprus) and UNEF (Sinai) and has previously served with UNIFIL with the 45 Bn. (Photo: P. J. Murray).

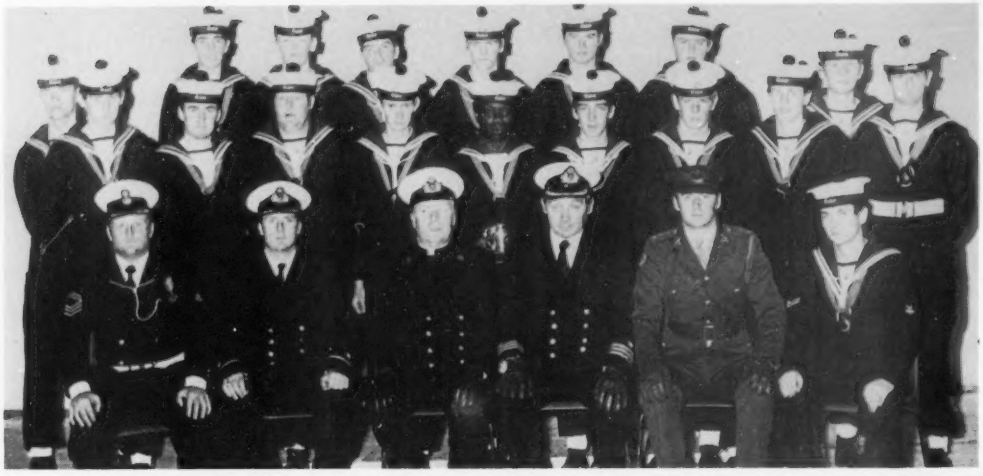
Two sets of brothers, all members of No. 1 Platoon 'C' Company, 48 Inf. Bn., who travelled to South Lebanon recently. They are from Custume Barracks, ATHLONE, and are natives of the town. *Left to right:* Pte. O. Green, Pte. J. Green, Cpl. M. Lynch, Pte. E. Lynch. Pte. Lynch has the distinction of being one of the youngest serving members of the new Bn. as he won't be eighteen until late November. (Photo: P. J. Murray).

At the presentation to mark the retirement of Cpl. E. Lally, 4 Bde HQ, after 40 years service. *Seated L. to R:* Comdt. L. Quinlan, Cpl. E. Lally, Mrs. J. Lally, Miss M. Shine, Col. D. Sweeney OC, 4 Inf. Bde., Comdt. M. Stapleton and Capt. J. Scanlon. *Standing L. to R:* Pte. J. Corrigan, Cpl. J. Daly, Sgt. A. Kiernan, Pte. C. Stephens, Pte. M. Walsh, Sgt. T. Moore, Cpl. J. Stacey.

Lt. Col. S. Murphy, HQ W. Comd., who is OC of the 48 Inf. Bn. UNIFIL. (Photo: P. J. Murray).

Ms. P. O'Boyle, BIM, presenting the young entry runners up trophy to Pte. J. Meehan, 6 Bn. at the recent Fish Cookery Competition. (Photo: P. Devaney).

# NAVAL SERVICE



Recruit Class Golf at their Passing Out Parade with, from left, CPO J. Murphy (regulating CPO, Naval School), Ens. B. O'Sullivan, N.S. (A/Trng. Offr.), Rev. Fr. M. O'Brien, C.F. (Naval Chaplain), Cdr. (now Capt.) L. Brett, N.S. (C.O. Naval Depot), Lt. W. Enright (Trng. Offr.), and L/Seaman W. O'Callaghan (Class Instructor). (Photo: Naval Service).

On the occasion of his retirement, CPO Paddy Murtagh, N.S. photographer receives a presentation from S/Lt. M. Gibbons on behalf of Seamen's Division. Also included are S/CPO John Durkin Base Cox and Lt. Cdr. W. J. Doyle N.S., OIC Photographic Section. (Photo: Naval Service).

Commodore Peter Kavanagh's retirement is market by a presentation on behalf of Officers of the Naval Service by Capt. (now Commodore L. S. Moloney, F.O.C.N.S. (Photo: Naval Service).

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# 47 INF. BN.

Cpl. Furey (4 Grn. MP Coy) and Cpl. Farrell (1 Grn. MP Coy) on duty at Tibnin. (Photo: Capt. R. Nugent).

Sgt. Coyne (DMC) and Cpl. Collins (1 Grn. MP Coy.) at Tibnin. (Photo: Capt. R. Nugent).

General view of the 47 Bn. "Medal Day" Meal. (Photo: Capt. R. Nugent).

C/S Foster (4 Fd MP Coy) and Sgt. Duffy (2 Grn. MP Coy.) at MP HQ 47 Inf. Bn. (Photo: Capt. R. Nugent).

**THE MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

**LECTURE PROGRAMME WINTER 1980/81**

**Friday, 28th November** •
**AN IRISH MILITARY ORDER OF THE 16th CENTURY**
Micheline Walsh

**Saturday, 29th November**
**THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE SOCIETY IN THE BURLINGTON HOTEL, DUBLIN**

**Thursday, 8th January**
**IRELAND IN FRENCH STRATEGY IN THE SEVEN YEARS WAR**
Marcus Beresford M.Litt.

**Thursday, 12th February** •
**IRISHMEN IN THE POWDER RIVER COUNTRY, 1867-1877**
W. Power

**Thursday, 12th March**
**THE BRITISH ARMY IN IRELAND IN THE 18th CENTURY**
Kenneth Ferguson, BA(Mod.)

• To be held in UCD, Earlsfort Tce., Dublin.

*Non-members will be welcome at all the lectures, which will be given at 8 p.m. in the lecture theatre of P. J. Carroll & Co. Ltd., Grand Parade, Dublin 6.*
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## AN COSANTOIR 10,000m.

FOUR hundred and fifty athletes faced the starter for the first Cosantoir 10,000m. Road Race held in the Phoenix Park recently. The turn out vindicated the faith and hard work of the Committee. Those who faced the starter also gave the lie to the myth that life stops at thirty, as some of the best runners were well into their forties and fifties.

On a bright autumn afternoon with a strong breeze and bright sunshine, the athletes set off from McKee Bks. in what must have been the largest field ever to compete within the Phoenix Park.

Col. H. McDwyer D/Trn set the field on its way. After a few adventurous souls had false starts the runners were off on a course which took them past the Civil Defence School, the Ashtown Gate, across the Main Road at Mountjoy Corner, past the Ordnance Survey through the Furry Glen past the Magazine Fort, Wellington Monument, Garda Depot, in the back gate of McKee and finished in front of the 7 Bn. Headquarters.

From the start a leading group consisting of Grn. Brendan Downey (C), Cpl. Jimmy McGlynn (East A), Cpl. P. Murphy (C), Sgmn. John Rabbitte (East A), made the running with Cpl. Paddy Martin (East), Cpl. Tony Martin (East), Pte. Paul Delaney (C), and Capt. W. Young in close pursuit but the runners were soon stretched in almost single file, seemingly from horizon to horizon.

While the battle was being fought out by the international class athletes at the front no less serious conflicts were being settled down the field. Age Group battles for the individual titles in the groupings U-25 O-25, O-30, O.35, O-40 and O-45 were taking place while for those who were not in line for these positions, there was the personal satisfaction of a good time, beating a training companion or acquaintance, or the satisfaction of simply completing the course.

Of course some performances must merit special mention, particularly that of the Deputy A.G. Col. Frank Dunne who completed the course well ahead of many people forty years his junior. Another performance which merits a special mention was that of Jim Gallagher the civilian switch man in Bricin's Hospital who completed the course in approximately forty two minutes — but the outstanding merit in this performance comes from the fact that Mr. Gallagher is totally blind and ran alongside Cpl. Lynch from Bricin's. Jim has competed in athletics for the blind, for a number of years in such varied events as 1,500m., shot, and 3,000m. Walk.

The team competition was fairly closely fought out between the East and Curragh with the East emerging victorious on this occasion by three hundred and eleven points to three hundred and eighty four points with East B in third and West in fourth.

In the individual competition the overall winner was Gunner Brendan Downey, Curragh — who was also the first under 25 athlete home, but the rule that one person could only win one prize ruled him out so the under 25 prizes were awarded to Sgt. Anto O'Brien, East B and Apprentice Eamonn Kelly, Curragh.

Cpl. Jimmy McGlynn (East A) was second in the overall competition and also the first over 25 to finish but was ruled out under the same rule as Grn. Downey so the over 25 prizes were awarded to Sgmn. John Rabbitte (East A) and Pte. Paul Delaney (Curragh).

Cpl. Paddy Martin (East A) won the over 30 section from his older brother Cpl. Tony Martin also (East A) — they finished sixth and ninth overall in the race.

Cpl. Paddy Murphy (Curragh) third overall in the race, was ruled out in the over 35 section, so the prizes in this section went to Sgt. Jimmy McCabe, Curragh with Sgt. Mick McCarthy (East A) in second. They were placed 17th and 26th respectively in the overall classification.

Comdt. Harry Quirke, 3 Bn. won the o-40 section from P. J. Kelly South. They were placed 69th and 77th overall.

In the over 45 section Col. Frank Dunne — A.H.Q. had a comfortable victory over Lt. Col. Jimmy Barrett — West. They finished 219th and 259th respectively.

The official result sheet shows 267 finishers, but many athletes who finished failed to register so this figure does not give a true picture of the people who finished. The full number would be 400 plus.

Finally a word for the organisers who must be really thrilled with their work. They did a splendid job and I'm confident that all 400 **competitors** will be taking part in next years **Cosantoir 10,000.**

### RESULTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *1* | *Gnr. B. Downey* | *Curragh* |
| *2* | *Cpl. J. McGlynn* | *East A* |
| *3* | *Cpl. P. Murphy* | *Curragh* |
| *4* | *Sgmn. J. Rabbitte* | *East A* |
| *5* | *Tpr. P. Delaney* | *Curragh* |
| *6* | *Cpl. P. Martin* | *East A* |
| *7* | *Lt. J. Carroll* | *West* |
| *8* | *Comdt. K. Humphries* | *Air Corps* |
| *9* | *Cpl. T. Martin* | *East A* |
| *10* | *Cpl. M. Gargan* | *East B* |
| *11* | *Capt. W. Young* | *East A* |
| *12* | *Capt. K. Hendrick* | *West* |
| *13* | *Sgt. A. O'Brien* | *East B* |
| *14* | *Lieut. L. Boyle* | *A/C* |
| *15* | *App. J. Geraghty* | *S.P.A.* |
| *16* | *Cpl. G. Loftus* | *S.P.A.* |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17 | Sgt. J. McCabe | Curragh |
| 18 | Cpl. T. Rochford | East B |
| 19 | Sgt. P. Carroll | East B. |
| 20 | Cpl. G. Gavin | 29 Bn. |
| 21 | Pte. Loughnane | West |
| 22 | Capt. P. Healy | Curragh |
| 23 | App. E. Kelly | Curragh |
| 24 | Cpl. J. Fee | 2 Grn. M.P.C. |
| 25 | Capt. E. J. Cullagh | Mil. Div. Bks. |
| 26 | Sgt. M. McCarthy | East A |
| 27 | Capt. J. J. Killian | South |
| 28 | Pte. B. Murray | East A. |
| 29 | Pte. G. King | 1 Bn. |
| 30 | App. J. Mahon | S.P.A. |
| 31 | CS G. Byrne | Curragh |
| 32 | Cpl. Riordan | South |
| 33 | Lieut. D. Murphy | 2 Bn. |
| 34 | Pte. D. Denver | A.S.P.C. |
| 35 | Comdt. J. Cummins | South |
| 36 | Pte. T. Doran | A.S.P.C. |
| 37 | Pte. A. Farrell | 27 Bn. |
| 38 | Capt. P. Phelan | A.H.Q. |
| 39 | Ens. M. Mellett | Navy |
| 40 | A/B M. Buckley | Navy |
| 41 | Capt. M. McInerney | A/C |
| 42 | Cadet M. McNulty | Cadet School |
| 43 | Pte. J. Sweeney | Equit. Sch. |
| 44 | Cpl. F. Carey | CTD/C |
| 45 | LE/A F. Jones | Navy |
| 46 | O/Wr P. Carr | Navy |
| 47 | App. C. Quinn | A/C |
| 48 | App. A. Corcoran | S.P.A. |
| 49 | Cpl Flannery | SC HQ |
| 50 | Pte. Macken | 29 Bn. |
| 51 | Sgt. Nash | South |
| 52 | Gnr. B. Kenefick | 1 FAR |
| 53 | Pte. J. Cummis | South |
| 54 | Sgt. P. Galligan | CTD/C |
| 55 | Cpl. D. Fox | 1 F.A.R. |
| 56 | Comdt. B. McCann | East A |
| 57 | Capt. J. Hunt | AHQ |
| 58 | Lieut. R. Cummins | A/C |
| 59 | Capt. T. Shine | Depot Ord. |
| 60 | Pte. Kelly | 28 Bn. |
| 61 | Cpl. M. Frayne | CTD/C |
| 62 | CQMS P. Lawlor | Curragh |
| 63 | Cadet P. McCarrick | Cadet School |
| 64 | Pte. A. McKenna | 27 Bn. |
| 65 | Cpl. Fitzgerald | CTD/C |
| 66 | Cpl. M. Cleary | East A. |
| 67 | Capt. J. Moran | East B. |
| 68 | Cpl. W. Smith | G.T.D. |
| 69 | Comdt. H. Quirke | 3 Bn. |
| 70 | Cpl. C. Kavanagh | CTD/C |
| 71 | Sgt. F. Byrne | 2 Mot. Sqn. |
| 72 | Gnr. B. Stilwell | 1 FAR |
| 73 | Pte. Cribbins | 2 Bn. |
| 74 | Capt. J. Barry | 2 Bn. |
| 75 | Pte. M. Boland | A.S.P.C. |
| 76 | Gnr. Cadogan | 1 FAR |
| 77 | Comdt. P. J. Kelly | South |
| 78 | Cpl. Byrne | A/C |
| 79 | Pte. Seery | 27 Bn. |
| 80 | Cpl. M. Young | 27 Bn. |
| 81 | Lieut. Heary | Equit. Sch. |
| 82 | Sgt. J. O'Donnell | West |
| 83 | Cpl. G. Sweeney | CTD/C |
| 84 | App. S. Coughlan | S.P.A. |
| 85 | Sgt. J. Cox | CTD/C |
| 86 | Sgt. J. Barry | Dir. SDT |
| 87 | Sgt. P. McMahon | Div. Arty. |
| 88 | A/M McCaw | A/C |
| 89 | Cadet J. Lynott | Cadet Sch. |
| 90 | Pte. J. Farry | West |
| 91 | Capt. J. Gleeson | A/C |
| 92 | Cdt. O'Murchada | Cadet School |
| 93 | Comdt. S. O'Connor | East B. |
| 94 | App. D. Cormack | S.P.A. |
| 95 | Cpl. Murphy | CTD/C |
| 96 | Cpl. L. Mullen | 2 Hosp. Coy. |
| 97 | Capt. S. Hynes | A.H.Q. |
| 98 | Comdt. C. Carroll | East A. |
| 99 | Sgm. J. Dunne | West |
| 100 | Capt. R. Maguire | CTD/C |
| 101 | Cpl. McKinley | 4 Grn M.P.C. |
| 102 | Pte. D. Stewart | 5 Bn. |
| 103 | Sgt. D. Henry | S.P.A. |
| 104 | Capt. M. Keohane | Curragh |
| 105 | Cpl. Ogle | 29 Bn. |
| 106 | Cpl. McCabe | 28 Bn. |
| 107 | Cpl. Hutchinson | CTD/C |
| 108 | Cdt. A. Doonan | Cadet School |
| 109 | Cdt. McGiolla | Cadet School |
| 110 | Sgt. F. McCormack | Curragh |
| 111 | Sgt. M. Doyle | CTD/C |
| 112 | Gnr. R. Deegan | 2 F.A.R. |
| 113 | Capt. Gerraty | 1 Bn. |
| 114 | Sgt. J. Sharp | A/C |
| 115 | Capt. B. O'Callaghan | East B. |
| 116 | A/M T. Carr | A/C |
| 117 | Pte. Warren | A/C |
| 118 | Comdt. P. McMahon | A/C |
| 119 | Ree Kinsella | 2 Bn. |
| 120 | Cpl. J. De Loughrey | 12 Bn. |
| 121 | Cpl. Daly | 29 Bn. |
| 122 | Comdt. D. O'Leary | A.H.Q. |
| 123 | Cpl. Higgins | W. Comd. |
| 124 | Sgt. P. Denton | East B |
| 125 | Capt. C. Moore | Mil. Col. |
| 126 | Pte. Cullivan | 29 Bn. |
| 127 | Cpl. M. Hogan | 1 Grn. A.O.C. |
| 128 | Cpl. Devlin | CTD/C |
| 129 | Capt. A. O'Sullivan | Mil. Col. |
| 130 | Comdt. F. Hearns | East B. |
| 131 | Cpl. A. Stokes | CTD/C |
| 132 | Cpl. O'Rourke | CTD/C |
| 133 | Capt. M. McCarthy | Mil. Col. |
| 134 | Cpl. P. Lee | Records C.T.C. |
| 135 | Pte. T. Jordan | 1 Bn. |
| 136 | Capt. Carberry | G.T.D. |
| 137 | Lt. G. Delaney | G.T.D. |
| 138 | Comdt. P. Murphy | East B. |
| 139 | L/SA Dowling | Navy |
| 140 | Capt. J. McGuinn | A/C |
| 141 | Pte. O'Neill | A.S.P.C. |
| 142 | Sgt. J. O'Neill | IBN |
| 143 | Sgt. J. Carton | CTD/C |
| 144 | RSM Faughan | CTD/C |
| 145 | Sgt. N. Farrell | 27 Bn. |
| 146 | Capt. P. Cooney | 27 Bn. |
| 147 | Lt. P. Ryan | 6 Bn. |
| 148 | Pte. A. De Loughry | South |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 149 | Capt. J. Sheehan | AHQ |
| 150 | Capt. P. Rossiter | Mil. Col. |
| 151 | Lt. B. McAndrew | 2 Bn. |
| 152 | App O. Brown | A/C |
| 153 | Capt. M. O'Regan | AHQ |
| 154 | Gnr. J. McGrath | 2 FAR |
| 155 | Capt. H. O'Donavan | 5 Bn. |
| 156 | Lieut. T. Meehan | Navy |
| 157 | Comdt. R. Heaslip | CTD/C |
| 158 | Capt. M. Gannon | Depot S T |
| 159 | Pte. J. Dermody | 27 Bn. |
| 160 | Mr. J. Gallagher | Briens |
| 161 | Cpl. P. Lynch | 2 Hosp Coy. |
| 162 | App. P. Molloy | A/C |
| 163 | Capt. A. Kilfeather | A.H.Q. |
| 164 | Pte. P. Fagan | 7 Bn. |
| 165 | Pte. Conlon | 2 Bn. |
| 166 | Pte. Rushe | 2 Bn. |
| 167 | Pte. Carroll | 2 Bn. |
| 168 | Pte. D. Maher | 2 Bn. |
| 169 | Pte. M. Joyce | 2 Bn. |
| 170 | Lieut. K. Barry | A/C |
| 171 | Sgt. B. Forde | 1 Bn. |
| 172 | Pte. O'Toole | 2 Bn. |
| 173 | Cpl. O. Regan | ASPC |
| 174 | Pte. Kavanagh | 2 Bn. |
| 176 | Cpl. Scanlon | 1 Bn. |
| 177 | Pte. Crowley | 29 Bn. |
| 177 | Comdt. T. Hodson | AHQ |
| 178 | Capt. M. Beary | 2 Bn. |
| 179 | Sgt. M. Mullen | 2 Grn. M.P.C. |
| 180 | App. G. Lawlor | A/C |
| 181 | Comdt. P. Ryan | 29 Bn. |
| 182 | Pte. G. Flaherty | 1 Bn. |
| 183 | Gnr. Boyne | 2 FAR |
| 184 | App. J. Spain | S.P.A. |
| 185 | Capt. J. Ahearn | G.T.D. |
| 186 | Capt. S. Roune | Mil. Col. |
| 187 | Pte. Anderson | 2 Grn. S & T |
| 188 | Pte. P. Cloonan | 1 Bn. |
| 189 | Capt. Cox | 28 Bn. |
| 190 | Cpl. Ryan | CTD/C |
| 191 | Capt. McEvoy | 28 Bn. |
| 192 | Pte. Kelly | 2 Bn. |
| 193 | Pte. P. Duffy | 2 Bn. |
| 194 | BSM Keating | 29 Bn. |
| 195 | App. M. O'Donnell | S.P.A. |
| 196 | Pte. P. Laing | 2 Bn. |
| 197 | App. F. Brien | S.P.A. |
| 198 | Sgt. A. Ryan | 2 Grn. M.P.C. |
| 199 | Capt. M. O'Donnell | 29 Bn. |
| 200 | Sgt. Costin | 29 Bn. |
| 201 | Pte. Cole | CTD/C |
| 202 | Pte. T. Murrin | A.H.Q. |
| 203 | Pte. J. Crabbe | 2 Bn. |
| 204 | Comdt. T. F. Halligan | 6 Fd. M.P.C. |
| 205 | Sgt. N. Rossiter | Depot Ord. |
| 206 | Pte. A. Costelloe | 2 Bn. |
| 207 | Sgt. F. Clarke | 27 Bn. |
| 208 | Pte. Elliott | 5 Bn. |
| 209 | Comdt. McNamara | 29 Bn. |
| 210 | Sgt. J. Clarke | 2 Grn. S & T. |
| 211 | Gnr. J. Doyle | 2 FAR |
| 212 | Sgt. Woodcock | 27 Bn. |
| 213 | Sgt. O'Donnell | 4 Fd. Sign. |
| 214 | Sgt. Mahady | 7 Bn. |
| 215 | CQMS Fitzgerald | 7 Bn. |
| 216 | Sgt. Steemson | 2 Hosp. Coy. |
| 217 | C. S. Carr | West |
| 218 | Capt. Coffey | G.T.D. |
| 219 | Col. F. Dunne | AHQ |
| 220 | Pte. J. Laycock | 2 Bn. |
| 221 | Comdt. F. Lee | E/C HQ |
| 222 | App. Davern | A/C |
| 223 | App. McManus | A/C |
| 224 | Comdt. P. Murphy | 7 Bn. |
| 225 | Comdt. A. J. O'Donovan | E/C HQ |
| 226 | Cpl. Nugent | CTD/C |
| 227 | Cpl. Flinter | CTD/C |
| 228 | Gnr. K. Hart | 2 FAR |
| 229 | Gnr. J. Healy | 2 FAR |
| 230 | App. J. O'Callaghan | A/C |
| 231 | Lt. Harris | West |
| 232 | A/M Kineen | A/C |
| 233 | Pte. J. Morrow | 2 Bn. |
| 234 | Pte. Rush A. | 2 Bn. |
| 235 | Pte. Marsh, A. | 2 Bn. |
| 236 | Pte. Quinn | 29 Bn. |
| 237 | Pte. Dempsey | 29 Bn. |
| 238 | App. Drohan | A/C |
| 239 | Gnr. Kearns | 2 FAR |
| 240 | App. O'Donoghue | A/C |
| 241 | Lt. Daly | Navy |
| 242 | Pte. Mockler | 2 Bn. |
| 244 | Pte. Hempsey | 7 Bn. |
| 244 | Cpl. Burke | 2 FAR |
| 245 | Gnr. P. McCaul | 2 FAR |
| 246 | Cmdt. P. Archibold | E/C HQ |
| 247 | Gnr. Rickard | 2 FAR |
| 248 | Comdt. Russell | A/C |
| 249 | Gnr. P. Devine | 2 FAR |
| 250 | Pte. Lennon | 2 Fd. C.O.E. |
| 251 | Pte. O'Meara | 2 Bn. S & T |
| 252 | A. N. Other | CTD/East |
| 253 | Pte. O'Reilly | 2 Bn. |
| 254 | Pte. G. Doyle | 2 Bn. |
| 255 | App. O'Hara | S.P.A. |
| 256 | Pte. Maher | 2 Bn. |
| 257 | Pte. O'Leary | 2 Bn. |
| 258 | Pte. B. Coyle | 2 Bn. |
| 259 | Lt. Col. J. Barrett | West |
| 260 | Comdt. W. Phillips | 2 FAR |
| 261 | Pte. Russell | 2 Bn. |
| 262 | C. S. Brennan | G.T.D. |
| 263 | Lt. Col. Hogan | A/C |
| 264 | Sgm. A. Welsh | AHQ Sigs. |
| 265 | Lt. Col. Cassidy | A/C |
| 266 | Mr. K. O'Rourke | Curragh |
| 267 | Lt. Col. M. Bates | A.H.Q. |

**Teams**

*1.* ***Eastern Command 'A'*** *Comdt. C. Carroll, Comdt. B. McCann, Sgt. M. McCarthy, Cpl. P. Martin, Cpl. A. Martin, Cpl. M. Cleary, Cpl. J. McGlynn, Capt. W. Young, Sgm. J. Rabbitte, Pte. B. Murray.*

*Total 311 pts.*

*2.* ***Curragh*** *Sgt. F. McCormack, Capt. M. Keohane, Sgt. J. McCabe, Cpl. P. Murphy, C.S. J. Byrne, CQMS J. Lawlor, Capt. P. Healy, Gnr. B. Downey, Tpr. P. Delaney, App. E. Kelly.*

*Total 384 pts.*

*3.* ***Eastern Command 'B'*** *Comdt. P. Murphy, Comdt. S. O'Connor, Comdt. F. Hearns, Capt. J. Moran, Sgt. P. Denton, Capt. B. O'Callaghan, Cpl. M. Gargan, Sgt. A. O'Brien, Sgt. P. Carroll, Cpl. A. Rochford.*

*Total 734 pts.*

*4. **Western Command** Lt. Col. J. Barrett, Capt. K. Hendrick, Lt. H. Harris, Sgt. O'Donnell, Sgm. M. Dunne, Lt. J. Carroll, Cpl. J. Higgins, Pte. J. Farry, Pte. J. Loughnane, C/S J. Carr.*
*Total 1148 pts.*

*Southern Command and Air Corps were incomplete.*

**Classified Results**

*1 U-25*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1 Sgt. A. O'Brien* | *East B* |
| *2 App. E. Kelly* | *Curragh* |
| *3 Cpl. J. Fee* | *2 Grn. M.P.C.* |

*2 O-25*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1 Sgm. J. Rabbitte* | *East A.* |
| *2 Tpr. P. Delaney* | *Curragh* |
| *3 Lt. J. Carroll* | *West* |

*3 O-30*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1 Cpl. P. Martin* | *East A.* |
| *2 Cpl. T. Martin* | *East A.* |
| *3 Comdt. J. J. Killian* | *South* |

*4 O-35*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1 Sgt. M. McCarthy* | *East B.* |
| *2 Sgt. M. McCarthy* | *East B.* |
| *3 Comdt. J. Cummins* | *South* |

*5 O-40*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1 Comdt. H. Quirke* | *3 Bn.* |
| *2 Comdt. P. J. Kelly* | *South* |
| *3 Comdt. C. Carroll* | *East A* |

*6 O-45*

| | |
|---|---|
| *1 Col. F. Dunne* | *AHQ* |
| *2 Lt. Col. J. Barrett* | *West* |
| *3 Comdt. W. Phillips* | *2 FAR.* |

The winners — Gnr. Downey (Curragh) 1st, Cpl. J. McGlynn (East A) 2nd and Cpl. P. Murphy (Curragh) 3rd. (Air Corps Photo).

# AIR CORPS

Comdt. K. Humphries, Air Corps, finishing 8th in the 10,000 metres. (Air Corps Photo).

"Spot the Cameraman". Lt. Gus Pender, Comdt. D. O'Laoire and Capt. Seán Hynes in the 10,000 metres. (Air Corps Photo).

Capt. Bernie O'Callaghan (115th) being hard pressed by the younger generation. (Air Corps Photo).

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| | Friday | 9.30 am-4.15 pm |
| | Including lunchtime. | |
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| | Thursdays | 5.00-8.00 pm |
| | Fridays | 10.00-12.30 pm |

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# THE FIRST F.C.A. OFFICERS COURSE

2/Lt. Gerry O'Hara 9th Bn.

ON August 9th 1980 thirty-two F.C.A. officers reported to the Military College in the Curragh for the first ever FCA Officers Course. There were nine officers from each of the Eastern, Southern and Western Commands and five from the Curragh Comd. Three (3) of the thirty-two were Captains and the remainder 1st or 2nd Lts.

Being "Pathfinders" we did not really know what to expect but it didn't take many hours in the college to realise that this course would be quite different from our usual Annual Camps. At the opening address on the evening of our arrival our Chief Instructor Comdt. Brian O'Connor of the Directorate of Reserve Forces introduced us to our four Instructors, one from each Command; Capt. Maxi McGrath of the East, Capt. Pat Hayes from the South, Capt. Fintan Dunne from the West and Capt. Paddy Moran representing the Curragh Comd.

We were also introduced to the Military College methods of acquiring knowledge through Advance sheets and questionnaires.

These questionnaires had to be filled in before each lecture. Our lectures were in such subjects as: Leadership, Organisation, Command and Staff, Intelligence Patrols etc. and it soon became evident that our instructors had put in many hours of hard work preparing our lectures.

Another subject we undertook during the first week was Effective Speaking under Lt. Col. Con O'Sullivan. These lectures proved most interesting and we were soon putting the useful hints we obtained into practice with one minute talks in front of a video camera. The recordings were played back to us the following day and were critiqued by Lt. Col. O'Sullivan. The recordings were also commandeered by the Instructors and viewed by them in their process of continual assessment.

Our big test in effective speaking came when each officer had to give a 15 min. talk on the subject on his choice. These talks proved most interesting and they ranged in subject matter from "An Appreciation of Concrete" to "Wakes" and from the "Donegal Railway System" to "The Development of Man". They took place in the evenings which gave us a working day from 0900 hrs. to 1300 hrs., 1400 hrs. to 1700 hrs. and 1900 hrs. to 2100 hrs. We would then have to spend 2 to 3 hours study to prepare our questionnaires for the next days lectures.

During the second week of the course we began to get out on the ground on various T.E.W.T.S. We negotiated Exercises Tintreach, Ballykelly, Stoneybrooke, and Hacklow Cross, all luckily in good weather and it became obvious that as time went by our solutions contined less red marks and our Grades began to climb from Cs to B plus and As. During our final exercise Mullacash (Coy. in Defence) we were visited by the Chief of Staff and the Adjutant General.

On our last night in the College we held our Class Dinner. We were honoured to have as our guests Lt. Col. Guerin representing the Director of Reserve Forces who was unavoidably absent. The Commandants of the Military College and the Infantry School, all our Instructors and Lt. Danny Jevins of the 10th Bn. who handled all our Admin. problems during the course. Our Class President Capt. Rory O'Tuathail in his speech which he delivered in English and beautiful Connemara Irish pointed out that it was up to F.C.A. officers to bring up standards in the Force and only in this way would we gain the respect we deserved. On behalf of the students on the course he presented a framed copy of the 1916 Proclamation to Col. Byrne the Commandant of the Military College for the College Mess.

On reflection we must ask, what did the course achieve? We cannot speak for the Directorate of Reserve Forces but from the students point of view we cannot speak highly enough of the help and encouragement we received from our Instructors which resulted in a fund of military knowledge, helpful hints and excellent notes which we can use to very great effect in our own Units. Out of our two weeks together came a wonderful spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps and this spirit was so strong that the course intends to hold a Reunion in future years. Without a doubt however the strongest feeling to emerge was that this course MUST be the first of many for Officers of the F.C.A.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your Article NIEMBA RECALLED published in October Issue by Col. R. W. BUNWORTH (Rtd.)

Having been a member of No. 2 Platoon 'A' Coy. 33rd Batt. of which all the men killed were members of, and having been a member of the patrol that found the bodies, I found that the Article brought back vividly to mind the happenings of that fateful day. It might be of interest to mention that with the exception of Lieut. Gleeson, Sgt. Gaynor and Pte. Farrell none of the remainder of the Patrol had patrolled in this area before that day, in fact it was only their second day in Niemba and their very first Patrol. As far as I can recall the reason for the whole platoon not moving to Niemba was that the day we were moving the men who were later to die were resting off duty, and did not arrive until the day prior to the Ambush.

My main reason for writing to you is to ask if it is possible to get a copy of the Honour of a Soldier as published on page 287 of October Issue. (SCROLL).

Yours etc.
CQMS E. Brennan,
'A' Coy. 9th Inf. Batt.,
Stephens Bks.,
Kilkenny.

*A number of people have enquired about the possibility of getting a copy of the Niemba Scroll. If sufficient requests are received An Cosantoir will have the scroll enlarged to page size and will sell copies as required.*

*Editor.*

Dear Sir,

Having read the article entitled "... FEEL THE WIDTH" by Henry Harris in the September '80 issue of "An Cosantoir", I thought perhaps you might be interested in an article about current U.S. Army rank insignia. I enclose a Basic Training information card which illustrates the officer and enlisted rank structure and insignia. The colours for enlisted ranks are yellow with dark green backgrounds to match the Army Green Uniform. They were worn in the same position as Irish Army rank insignia. The division or corps "patch" (flash) is worn on the left sleeve above the rank insignia. The right upper sleeve is reserved for Combat patches that is, if the soldier served in combat with a certain division, he may wear that patch on his right sleeve. However, the combat patch is optional.

Perhaps it would be possible for one of your researchers to do an article on this subject?

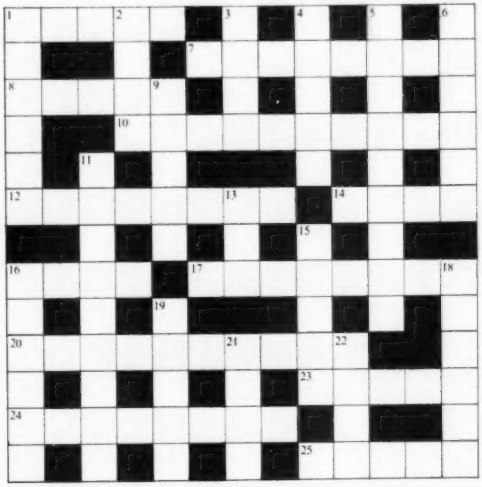
Yours sincerely,
Vincent A. Hourican,
Private First Class, U.S. Army,
Coleman Bks.,
6460 Celnhausen, West Germany.

---

ALL LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: THE EDITOR, *AN COSANTOIR*, AHQ, PARKGATE, DUBLIN 8. PLEASE WRITE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

---

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



A prize of a PHILIPS 162 transistor radio (worth £20) donated by the ACB, will be awarded for the first correct solution pulled out of a cap on December 10 next. The solution will be printed in the December issue. All replies should be addressed to:

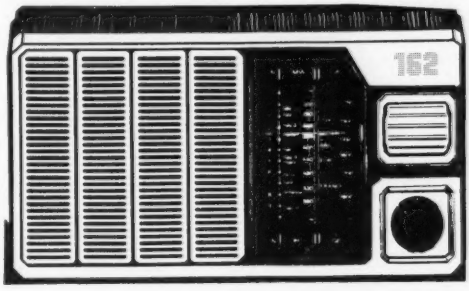
The Editor,
An Cosantoir,
A.H.Q.,
Parkgate,
Dublin 8.

Please mark envelopes "**X Word**".

ERRATA — PAGE 331

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD — CLUES ACROSS

16. Old Musical Instrument (4)




**CLUES ACROSS**

1 Distance between gun and target (5)
7 A glancing rebound (8)
8 Legal right (5)
10 Resolute (10)
12 Irregular soldier of W.W.2 (8)
14 Sport (4)
17 Waters off Australia (5,3)
20 Predicting (10)
23 Dance (5)
24 Tidyness (8)
25 Striped quadruped (5)

(Solution Next Month)

**CLUES DOWN**

1 Military Policeman (3,3)
2 Grating (4)
3 Ten U.S. Cents (4)
4 River, scene of W.W.1 battle (5)
5 Asiatic religion (9)
6 Artist's workroom (6)
9 Lukewarm (5)
11 Brotherly (9)
13 Famous boxer (3)
15 Horse (5)
16 Worlfish (6)
18 Polar light (6)
19 Straps of a bridle (5)
21 A measured portion (4)
22 Lame (4)

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## OFFICERS PROMOTIONS — OCTOBER

| Name | Promoted To | Appointed From | Appointed To |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carroll, T. B. | A/Col. | Comd. EO, HQ, S/Comd. | OC (Col) HQ OBS Corps |
| Donnelly, A. | A/Col. | OC 4 Fd. Arty. Regt. | OC (Col) E Comd. FCA |
| Fives, J. | A/Lt. Col. | OIC A Staff W. Comd. FCA | OC 30 Inf. Bn. |
| Harrington, M. | A/Lt. Col. | OC 15 Inf. Bn. (FCA) | OC + APM, HQ Depot MPC |
| Nugent, P. | A/Lt. Col. | SO Supply Sec., QMG's Br., AHQ | OIC Supply Sec., QMG's Br., AHQ |
| Walters, J. J. | A/Lt. Col. | Gen. list Inf. Corps att HQ C/Comd. | Camp Comdt. Coolmoney Camp HQ C/Comd. |
| Keaney, C.D. | A/Lt.Col. (Temp Overseas) | EO (Comdt.) HQ Depot Sigs. | Gen. List Sig. Corps att Depot Sigs. (for duty with UNIFIL as Chief Sigs. Offr.) |
| O'Donoghue, J. P. | A/Lt. Col. | OC 16 Inf. Bn. (FCA) | EO, HQ 6 Bde. |
| O'Callaghan, F. F. | Lt. Col. | Conductor No. 1 Army Band, ASM | Asst. D, HQ ASM |
| O'Connor, F. C. | A/Comdt. | Instr. (Cav) Mil. Col. | O/C 'A' staff E. Comd. FCA |
| O'Donnchadha, D. | A/Comdt. | QM 2 Inf. Bn. | Bde SO, HQ 2 Bde. |
| Burke, J. T. | A/Comdt. | Bty. Comdr., 1AA Bty., 1 AA Regt. | Coy. Comdr., HQ Coy. 5 Inf. Bn. |
| Grey, W. O. | A/Comdt. | Comd. Welfare Offr. S. Comd. | Coy Comdr., B Coy. 5 Inf. Bn. |
| Moriarty, J. J. | A/Comdt. | SO HQ 11 Mot. Sqn. (FCA) | OIC Planning Sec., QMG's Br. |
| Campion, J. J. | A/Comdt. | 2 i/c Air Sgn. Sigs. | SO ADM., Reserve Forces Sec. CS's Br., AHQ |
| O'Brian, E. C. | A/Comdt. | Adm. Offr., 16 Inf. Bn. (FCA) | Coy. Comdr., A Coy., 6 Inf. Bn. |
| O'Brien, T. F. | A/Comdt. (Temp. Overseas) | OIC Mobile Wksps., 2 Grn. Ord. Coy. | Ord. Offr., HQ, 48 Bn. (UNIFIL) |
| Loftus, T. C. | A/Comdt. | Gen. list Inf. Corps., Att QMG's Br. (for duty with UNTSO) | Retains present appointment |
| O'Brien, P. J. | A/Comdt. | Tech. Offr., Tech. Stores, Depot Cav. | Gen. list Cav. Corps., Att. D. Cav. |
| O'Callaghan, P. | A/Comdt. | Adm. Offr. 19 Inf. Bn. (FCA) | Coy. Comdr. A Coy. 1 Inf. Bn. |
| Kavanagh, W. J. | A/Comdt. | 2 i/c & Pl. Comdr., 4 Pl. 4 Fd. Sign. Coy. | OC 4 FD Sig. Coy. |
| Timpson, D. J. | A/Comdt. | Adm. Offr. 23 Inf. Bn. (FCA) | Adjt., HQ 2 Bde. |
| Good, M. A. | A/Comdt. | Adjt. 12 Inf. Bn. | Coy. Comdr., A Coy., 29 Inf. Bn. |
| O'Brien, M. | A/Comdt. | Adm. offr. 15 Inf. Bn. (FCA) | Coy. Comdr., A Coy., 2 Inf. Bn. |

## NCO's PROMOTIONS — OCTOBER

| Rank | Name | Unit | Rank Promoted To |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgt. | Byrne, P. | Mil. Col. | CS |
| Sgt. | Conroy, S. | 8 Bn. | CQ |
| P.O | Delaney, R. | N.S. | CPO |
| Sgt. | Curran, C. | D/MPC | CQ |
| Sgt. | Holligan, M. | 3 Bn. | CQ |
| Sgt. | Brennan, R. | 12 Bn. | CQ |
| Sgt. | O Halloran, D. | 12 Bn. | CQ |
| Sgt. | Maher, J. | 12 Bn. | CQ |
| Sgt. | O'Flynn, P. | 4 Bn. | CQ |
| Sgt. | Morrissey, D. | 7 Bn. | CQ |

---

**IMAGINATIVE COE?**

The community as a whole expects from its engineers ideas, structures and equipment that will enable it to live more easily and work more effectively. So also, the Army is entitled to expect from its engineers systems that will enable it to do its job more effectively. We can not realise that expectation unless we increase both the breadth and the depth of the engineering knowledge available within the Corps, nor could we apply it if we allowed its acquisition to be at the expense of our military ability. To achieve all this a substantial change in our officer training scheme is needed. The manning implications will not be popular, but they must be accepted.

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS JOURNAL, U.K.

**MATURE COPS?**

Can't we get some sort of psychological test that would select mature, stable cops who will do a good job?

I haven't heard of a test that can do that. One civilian organisation that administered a battery of such tests has found their disqualification rate among those who passed the test is almost the same as ours. Additionally, for a force the size of ours, in depth psychological testing is not practical from an economic viewpoint. I hope the new team-teaching concept at the academy that allows an instructor to observe a student for the entire course will help eliminate those people who can't hack our tough job.

SECURITY POLICE DIGEST (U.S.A.)

# WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

The Man Bites Dog column in the *Irish Times*, often quoted by Radio Presenters in the mornings, turned favourably towards the Army after that Petrol interlude.

ARMY TO MOVE IN

The Army is to run Ireland. This startling news was also given to the last night and was believed to be a direct result of the petrol strike, in which the Army played such an effective role. It will not mean that everybody in Ireland is to join the Army, of course, but it will mean a more disciplined nation.

A spokesman for the Government said that, when the Army started to run Ireland, it would mean no more strikes, go-slows or that kind of carry on. The official trade union movement welcomed the Army into Irish industry and life. "This will mean more leisure for our members," said a spokesman.

The Alternative Trade Union Movement pointed out that with the Army running the country there would be no overtime for their members. "What the hell do they think we are, a bloody crowd of trade unionists or what?" asked a shop steward.

Ireland got on the move yesterday for the first time for 18 months when the Army moved into CIE, the Irish Sugar Co., the GAA, Bord na Mona, Irish Shipping, the ESB, Aer Lingus, the Gaelic League, RTE and Bord Failte. They had planned to move into Government Buildings, they found the place locked, the Government is on extended leave. The Taoiseach wants to remain on as Chief of Staff, and this will pose some problems.

That's a very formidable list of take-overs allotted to us by Mr. Foley. Maybe we should seek help. Do you think the Gardai would be prepared to run the G.A.A.?

## CHANGING TIMES

Food for thought from the *Irish Independent.*

Mr. Justice D'Arcy commented in the High Court yesterday that in the first 53 years of the history of the Army there had not been one single complaint in regard to the method of discharging soldiers from the force. Yet, since 1976 there had been at least four cases of which he was aware concerning the method adopted.

Why there should be none from 1922 to 1976 and then four in the past four years he did not know. It could be the different role expected of the Army, including manning the Border, but whatever the reason it was quite important that the Army authorities should know precisely where they stood with regard to the rights of disciplining their men.

Equally important was the right of soldiers to know where they stood because it was easy to see where difficulties could arise.

## MEN BITE DOG

No doubt the Lebanon contingent from Collins Bks. (Dublin) may have felt some anti-canine twinges when they read the newspaper accounts of their GOCs inspection parade. They were upstaged by a recruit "Tighe" the new mascot of the 5th Infantry Battalion, according to the Evening Herald's Darach MacDonald. Was it W. C. Fields who warned all actors. "Never appear with animals or children".

The Herald had a large picture of Tighe and his handler together with this extract from his training record —

"He is doing very well so far", observed Capt. Martin Quilty. "He has a very good temperament, very disciplined like a good soldier should be, and he is showing great enthusiasm."

Pte. Joseph Bolton, Tighe's handler, sees a bright future for his new charge. For this morning's parade before Brigadier Gen. Patrick Daly, GOC of the Eastern Command, Pte. Bolton's wife, Margaret, fitted Tighe out with handmade cape of sheeps wool "She has a great admiration for this dog. It's like having two babies in the house" said Pte. Bolton, who has a baby daughter.

THROUGH RANKS

But Recruit Tighe still has to go through the ranks. In a few weeks he will be made a two-star Private and by Christmas is expected to have undergone the training course for his three-star rank of Private.

"He can be promoted higher than corporal", said Capt. Quilty. "But he is unlikely to make GOC of the Eastern Command."

Further comment is dangerous.

## HAVE YOU HEARD IT?

The Backchat column in the *Sunday Independent* quite often comes up with a startling "Defence Revelation". A few Sundays back their mole unearthed the following:

WHY RTE ARE AT WAR WITH ARMY CHIEFS

RTE are hopping mad that the Army have decided to start a recruitment campaign by advertising on a pirate radio station. From tomorrow, Radio Dublin will spell out the action packed life of the F.C.A. in a bid to win recruits in the Dublin area.

And why on Radio Dublin and not RTE, one might ask. Because more young people listen to Eamon Cooke's pirate station than to RTE Radio 2. The RTE bosses are now expected to lodge an official complaint with the Government.

Why should a Government Department allocate funds for advertising on an illegal radio station when the State-run broadcasting company is so badly in need of cash . . . £3 million, in fact, to take them out of the red.

The F.C.A. gone over to Pirates. Have the Slua Muiri heard about this.

## MONEY MATTERS

From the letter column in the *Irish Times.*

PAYING FOR POTHOLES

Sir, — On the presumption that the over-prosperous multinational oil consortiums are paying our Defence Forces to move their products, can we, the taxpayers, expect the Army wage bill saved will be used for filling-in the countless deep potholes which litter the nation's roads?

Yours,
Simon O'Donnell,
25 Synge Street,
Dublin 8.

Maybe we should take up pothole filling now that the tanker driving is over, for the moment.

The report of a Courtmartial in the *Irish Independent* had us worried. The accused was reported to have admitted taking £650 from a locker and £127 from the bedside of a visiting NCO. Lest the Department of Finance should get the mistaken impression that pay rates are too high we sought explanations. We were assured that in the Command in question duties are so heavy that the troops have no opportunity to spend their money.

But Mr. Kevin O'Reilly of St. Joseph's St., Limerick, had another angle to Army pay. He wrote to the *Sunday Press* —

The motto of the army paymaster seems to be pay as little as you can and delay paying it as long as you can.

Escort duty involves going without a hot meal for 5, 10 or even 14 hours. Then the soldier gets a subsistence form to fill in detail. For 5 hours he receives approx. £2.90. He will get this money 6 to 8 weeks later. The idea is exist now, and we will give you your subsistence in 6 weeks time.

Special guard duty (trade union officials please note) involves outdoor and indoor guard duty in high security prisons for a straight 24 hours. Extra pay £5 — less tax £1.50 = £3.50 for 24 hours work, less the price of his meals if the Army feeds him. Net gain to the soldier, approx. 12p per hour. And of course he will receive this money 6 weeks later. And to think the consultants refused £27 per hour.

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The *Evening Herald* Radio Critic tuned in to RTE Radio 1 and heard "Maxwell Sweeney's entertaining documentary, THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND, about the Army School of Music." The programme recalled for the writer, P. F. Byrne, a similar one many years ago.

When the director of the School "Colonel Sauerzweig was heard training boy musicians with typical Prussian efficiency".

Was it Colonel Sauerzweig, or his contemporary Fritz Brasse, who told a fledgling flamboyant young student conductor that he would send for him when the walls needed whitewashing!

Colonel Fritz Brasse was mentioned in the article as a player of 23 instruments — a band in himself.

"Col. Jim Doyle recalled how the first Irish Army bands were formed. After the Irish Free State came into being, a committee which included Denis McCullough and John Larchet began a search for a competent military musician to run the School of Music. They tried France, but there they were reorganising their own bands after the war, so no one was available.

They were luckier in Germany, where the Army had been disbanded, in coming across Fritz Brasse, a first class Prussian soldier and a player of 23 instruments. In six months he was to produce the efficient, and what was to become the famous Army No. 1 Band, giving its first recital in the Theatre Royal, Dublin. Col. Doyle attended it as a boy, later joined the school to become No. 1 conductor himself. Arthur Duff was first conductor of the No. 2 Cork Band.

One of the reasons why the No. 1 Band was formed so quickly, it was recalled, was because bandsmen from Irish regiments in the British Army, which had been disbanded were available.

The *Evening Press* carried the announcement of the Annual Mass, in St. Patricks Church, Cathal Brugha Bks., at 1100 hrs. on November 22nd in honour of the Patron Saint of Music St. Cecilia. All ex-members of the Army School of Music were invited. No doubt many Fritz Brasse stories were recalled.

## OLD SOLDIERS

John O'Reilly in the *Evening Press* had an interesting article on O.N.E. — The Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen. The second paragraph said a lot:

"Although the facilities and benefits don't match those of veteran associations in

No's 57 and 58 Platoons 'A' Coy 6 Inf. Bn. who Passed Out recently at Custume Barracks, Athlone, with their Instructors. **Back, l. to r.:** Ptes. A. Hooper, F. Callinan, M. Scanlon, C. Elliot, C. Kavanagh, J. McNamee, M. Power, P. O'Neill, W. Ducke, A. Devine, T. Brehony. **3rd Row, l. to r.:** Ptes. E. Hensey, J. McDonagh, J. West, S. Millar, J. Cawley, D. Reilly, W. Canley, P. Steels, P. Ward, D. Carroll. **2nd Row, l. to r.:** Ptes. A. Scally, P. Somers, B. Fitzmaurice, E. Berry, J. Egan, G. Newcombe, D. McCormack, N. Fennell, W. O'Sullivan, W. Malone, G. Kennedy, B. Somers. **1st Row, l. to r.:** Ptes. G. Morgan, L. Mulhall, Cpls. K. Nicell, R. Lipsett, Sgt. P. Dolan, C/S J. McManus, Ptes. S. McSorley and P. Burke. Pte. D. Dully was absent from the photo.
(Photo: Cpl. R. Lipsett)

neighbouring countries, the O.N.E. feels that strength of numbers will help redress some of the difference. At present, there is no permanent O.N.E. office, no soldiers home and no hospital for retired members of our Army. It is a sad reflection on our treatment of ex-servicemen when one considers that establishments like Leopardstown Hospital and several British Legion Clubs in the country are subsidised by the British Government. Surely a disturbing thought for our Department of Defence and for many of the 13,500 men proudly wearing the Irish uniform at home and abroad on United Nations peace-keeping missions."

The present president, not unknown in these columns, had this message for us all.

"The current president of O.N.E., retired Lt-Col. Larry Doyle, says that although a lot of solid work was done by the stalwarts of those early days, many of whom are still active members, much remains to be done. Despite the fact that new branches are being formed in many areas, there is a growing need for them to attract young men who have just left the Army, so that they can infuse new enthusiasm into the present committees.

This is not to say that they are dragging their feet, says Col. Doyle but by and large they suffer from the common complaint of too many problems, and too little money."

It has always struck as that the biggest disability effecting O.N.E. is the lack of a central headquarters with an address known to all serving and ex-members. Maybe that brand new Department of Defence, we hear about from time to time, could spare ONE small office for O.N.E.

## GRIM FOREBODINGS

Noticed in the *Sunday Independent:*

'. . . KICKHAM BARRACKS in Clonmel, up to now the forgotten station of the Army, will shortly be a place fit for soldiers to live. Defence Minister Padraig Faulkner is having two new squash courts built and having a dressingroom and showers added to the gym. He is also building a new dining hall and cookhouse . . .'

Remember when Mullingar was a forgotten station?

## VACATION

'It's time for you to stop, noticing what the papers notice for a while' said the Editor.

'Take a break — get away from it all for a while.'

So with my **Kit-Kat** in my haversack I hopped a plane instead of a ball and was sitting back relaxed when lo-and-behold what did I discover tucked away with my life-jacket instructions but the Aer Lingus *Cara* magazine.

Get away from it all? It was as full of Army details as the final edition of *Hibernia.* Cover picture, pictures of Lebanese mingi-men, insignia explanations and quotations a-plenty:

'. . . "You're divorced from the type of civilisation that these fellows are used to" the officers told us:

No. 8 Platoon 'C' Company 48 Inf. Bn. drawn from the 6th Inf. Bn., Custume Bks., Athlone, who departed for UNIFIL recently. **Back Row, l. to r.:** Cpl. G. Doherty, Sgt. P. McCrossan, Cpls. J. Keenan, M. Lynch, S. O'Donnell, Ptes. M. Callopy, E. Powell, J. Lynch, G. McCallan, D. Power, T. Gilligan, J. Murphy, P. Wykes, M. Caffey, S. Williams, G. Treacy, R. D'Arcy, Cpls. V. Prendergast, P. J. Higgins. **Front Row, l to r:** Ptes. H. Flynn, O. Greene, M. Greene, S. Horan, A. Murphy, P. Sammon. J. Ridge, M. Rosney. (Photo: R. Lipsett, Cpl.)

"You can't go down the road for a pint . . .'
Did they mean the interviewer (Bernard Share) couldn't go down the road for a pint or were they implying that just as happiness is a cigar called Macbeth so is civilisation a pint called O'Murchu? Despite this it was reported in the *Irish Times* and *Irish Press* that Aer Lingus had lost the contract for flying home our lads from the Lebanon. They lost it to the Danes. (Not Viking well good enough!).

A foreign newspaper carried this advertisement for their Air Force:

'. . . If it weren't for the Officers on the left, the Officers on the right, couldn't get off the ground'.

With politics creeping into advertising is there any hope of getting away from it at all?

## BRACKETING

'. . . With the roar of the explosion, the gun jumped eighteen inches in the air and recoiled backwards, the trail of the gun narrowly missing the gunners. The shell travelled forward and struck a telegraph pole . . . cutting down the pole. The shell ricocheted and then struck the second window to the right of the gate. It skidded along the road and was later picked up near the Treaty Stone . . .'

Not a report on the performance of the 4 Artillery Regiment practising for **Ex Garryowen** but an extract from 'The Shelling of Strang Barracks' in Limerick during the Civil War. It appeared in a recent edition of *The Old Limerick Journal.*

## F.C.A. Note

Part of a definition for **Field Day** contained in the elegant programme for Brian Friel's **Translations** at the Gate Theatre reads as follows:

'. . . a day occupied with brilliant or exciting events . . .'

The action of the play takes place in Donegal.

Good Training Officers up there in 24 Battalion!

## CLIPS

*Litani* — the UNIFIL NEWS — carried a profile of Lt. Col. Frank Stewart, OC 47 Battalion.

*The Sunday Independent*, in an article headed **Air Service after a super-chopper,** alluded to the proposed purchase of a Super-Puma for air-sea rescue, described as the Achilles heel of the new generation helicopters.

## TINTOWN STARS

The *Evening Herald* of 14 October told of a chance meeting between author and script-writer, John Clive and a Cork Film Festival car driver which led to a proposed major film about the Curragh Internment Camp during 'The Emergency'.

Intrigued by the driver's story concerning the internment the writer of the thriller **KG 200** soon had the script of **Golden Wings** completed. The *Evening Herald* continued:

He is hoping to get Richard Harris to play the role of the late Commandant Des Guiney, an American-born Irish Army man who was in charge of the camp at the time. The film is going to cost about £4 million and he and Sheamus Smith are going to try and raise Irish finance as an investment for Ireland.

How about it, Curragh Bulletin! Time you dipped into your gold reserves.

Miss Olivia O'Leary's article in the *Irish Times* on Yorkie bars *(Cosantoir* Oct.) has given rise to the following advertising suggestion:

"Before he joined the Army Corporal Cuddihy thought a Yorkie was a terrier."

# BOOK REVIEWS

**BEAM, The Journal of the Irish Lighthouse Service Volume II, No. 2.**

This issue has several interesting items, histories of the Calf Rock Lighthouse and the lights marking the entrance to Blacksod Bay (the Spanish Armada would have appreciated the latter). The cover shows a very fine photograph of the steamer *Alexandra*, a lightship tender, which had the remarkably long life of fifty one years, from 1904 to 1955. Michael Stopford tells of the reason for building Dun Laoghaire as a harbour of refuge in 1817 and in a separate article takes us on a tour of Dalkey Island.

Frank Forde.

**"PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST" David Astor and Valerie Yorke. Corgi Books. £1.95.**

This little book contains much diplomatic and military home-work on the mechanics of a possible settlement in the Middle East. The problems seem insoluble, but the dangers have inspired careful study and original thinking.

The Sinai and Golan Agreements of 1973, '74 and '75 were complicated. They had to be, because the negotiable areas were limited and mistrust was rife. The writers of this book are attempting to follow the previous examples and their suggestions are necessarily complex also. The material is very well organized, but the final form of the 1979 Agreement has out-dated some of the arguments.

Briefly, the authors suggest Demilitarized Zones astride all Israel's (1967) frontiers, with UN peace-keeping forces and local early warning stations on the Egyptian and Syrian borders for a period of at least 15 years. An international "Border Guard" with a mandate to use force should be stationed for an indefinite period on both sides of a "new Palestinian entity" (West Bank and Gaza Strip), astride the Israeli-Lebanese Border and south of the Litani. The US and USSR should be involved in ground and air reconnaissance of all borders and should guarantee the Peace Treaty. A Control Committee of arms supplying and receiving states would maintain the military balance between Israel and its neighbours.

The authors say Israel would not entrust her vital security to a UN Force, so they consider that the Border Guard should 'only be registered with the UN and possibly observed by UN LO's' but not under UN control. It should be the responsibility of bodies set up under the Peace Treaty.

It would have helped clarity if a distinction between Buffer Zones and DMZ's had been made and the function of Limited Forces areas were explained. The suggestions on improving ground verifications are good, particularly as regards the use of air photos although they do not mention the two main requirements:-

a. Immediate action by the responsible peacekeeping authority on any minor violations, as soon as they are detected - including obstructions to the work of inspection teams. If minor matters accumulate without protest rectification can become a major matter of prestige.
b. Establishment of the principle that nothing is secret in the inspected areas. "No-go" positions, disguised HQs, etc., should be simply unacceptable.

The desirability of using the new technology is once again pressed on the UN. 'The United Nations does not at present have in the Middle East the technical expertise of the material resources to establish a complete border and area surveillance . . . requiring a combination of unattended ground sensors, watch stations, optical and electro-optical observation devices . . .' The success of these devices in the unpopulated Sinai, operated under near ideal conditions by highly skilled US technicians, may be a little misleading. (It would be interesting to know why such equipments failed at Misgav Am). But UN Observers and Forces must evaluate and use them where they are helpful. For this, two things are essential -

a. A proper attitude to the handling of technical equipment.
b. Skilled maintenance.

A very interesting book, but in contains some wishful thinking.

E. D. Doyle.

**THE IRISH WILDLIFE BOOK. Fergus O'Gorman. Published by John Coughlan. £5.50 (incl. VAT).**

In recent times there has been a great upsurge of interest in wildlife due mainly to the various programmes on the subject which are now a regular feature on television.

Two of the illustrators of this book, Eamon de Buitleir and Gerrit Van Gelderen have been foremost in this field on our own RTE.

Edited by Fergus O'Gorman it contains 27 different articles by various contributors covering a wide variety of aspects of wildlife, not only are birds, animals and fish covered but also plants and fauna.

To single out one article for special mention would be unfair of me, because each in their own way; have done an excellent job in giving even to those who may reside in rural areas a better insight into our wildlife. Besides describing our wildlife the book also gives a history of our wildlife and suggests how, for the future, it may be preserved.

Beautifully illustrated with black and white and colour photographs and also with excellent sketches together with features from some of the best known naturalists in this country.

It is published in co-operation with Irish Wildlife Federation, An Taisce and the Irish Wildlife Conservancy with the generous assistance of the Bank of Ireland.

J. N.

**ULTRA IN THE WEST - THE NORMANDY CAMPAIGN 1944-45. Ralph Bennet. Hutchinson. £9.95.**

In the preface to this book it is stated that the object was to do something which had not been attempted before; to portray the Anglo-American campaign of 1944-45 solely through the intelligence supplied by a single source, Ultra. The story of Ultra and the breaking of the Enigma codes have already been published in a number of books. Indeed, one of the most fascinating aspects of this whole operation is that it remained a closely guarded secret for nearly 30 years. It was 1974 before the first book on Ultra and Enigma was published and since that time others have followed in quick succession with a good deal of coverage on radio and television programmes.

Now we can see in considerable detail how the daily messages, intercepted and decoded by the specialists of Bletchley Park, were applied to the requirements of Army, Navy, and Air Force agencies. It is not an easy book to read. The author is rightly deliberate and systematic in delineating the messages as they were received and decoded. He gives the code numbers of each message. There are a good number of quite adequate maps and diagrams to illustrate the various campaigns which were been monitored. All this is necessary because it is too easy to assume that if you have broken your enemy's secret code system, and are privy to his most secret orders and decisions, the rest is a matter of taking the necessary steps to anticipate or annihilate his moves. There is far more to intelligence work than this.

The most valuable aspect to this book is that it shows quite clearly that no single skill or ability was of itself sufficient. As Ralph Bennet points out, the popular versions of the cracking of Ultra and Enigma have concentrated on the more glamorous and exciting aspects of that achievement. He shows that cryptographic skill and mathematical insight were no longer enough. There was the need for an exact and fluent knowledge of German and an aptitude for intelligence work, if this miracle was to be exploited to the full. How it was exploited is the theme of this book. I found it interesting but rather hard going until I took the simple step of reading a couple of accounts of the breakout and the Falaise Pocket in conjunction with the Ultra messages which tole the Allies exactly what the Germans were trying to do and what resources they had with which to do them. If you pick any of the dramatic campaigns of the period between D-Day 1944 and the final advance that ended the war, and follow them in this book, you will find that the incredible achievement that was Ultra is put into its proper perspective.

M. D. B.

**THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM: A British Contribution towards the formulation of a grand strategy for the defence of the Free World. Geoffrey Stewart-Smith. Foreign Affairs Research Institute. London. £3**

This thirty-page pamphlet seeks to formulate British contribution to a grand strategy for the defence of the Free World. It was written before the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan become front-page news and is a re-statement of the traditional Communist objective of ultimate world domination. The paper gives an outline of the nature of the global challenge, with a list of the tactics and methods used by the organs of Soviet power, at home and abroad to achieve what the author calls the Kremlins Golden Rule - "Do to the opponent exactly the opposite of what you wish to do unto yourself".

For the rest of the paper Mr. Stewert-Smith, Director of the Foreign Affairs Research Institute and a former Conservative M.P. delineates the steps and attitudes to be adopted by the West, and particularly by Great Britain, if this massive Soviet menace is to be contained. Great stress is placed on the moral aspects of the whole issue. An attempt is made to describe not only what the West is opposed to, but what it stands for.

The ultimate moral is that Western freedom has to be paid for, not merely in monetary terms or the self-sacrifices required from those who enjoy its benefits, but in a proper and clear understanding of what exactly our values and priorities are. It gives some food for thought, but the overall reaction must be that the price of this small pamphlet must make it a dubious purchase except for reference libraries and institutions. It will help you to sort out your ideas, but there is very little that is new or startling in its pages.

M. D. B.

**THE PICTURE HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II, 1939-1945. New York. Grosset and Dunlapp, (1976). £8.95 (distributed by Blandford Press).**

This book is both more and less than the title might suggest. Less, because (as will be indicated) it hardly attempts to meet some expectations with which many readers might approach a work with this title. More, because it is itself a document, almost a time capsule: indeed, it had already something of this character when it was first published in 1946 as **Collier's photographic history of World War II.** The pictures, and to a large extent probably also the captions, reflect what appeared in **Collier's** magazine during the course of the war; in 1946 these were grouped to illustrate different phases of the war, with brief passages of narrative text and an introductory section giving a general chronological survey. Apart from the publication data at the foot of p. 4, nothing appears to have been changed since 1946; certainly there is no sign of any later development of perspective. To take a conspicuous example, the only indication in this book that one of the photographs on p. 263 (the marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima) has since become one of the most famous photographs to emerge from the war, is the fact that it is reproduced, hand coloured, on the dust jacket. On one hand, of course, this embalming has saved the collection from the kind of mutilation that might have come from a revision of the text in, say, 1955. On the other, the value of the work could have been greatly increased by a simple revision of the wording (there is a good deal of unnecessary repetition, and some plain inaccuracy, in the captions, reflecting the speed of the original compilation), still more by increasing the amount of information about the photographs - many of the people shown, to say nothing of locations, occasions, units, weapons and the like, could easily have been more precisely identified. This opportunity was not taken in 1946 and has not been taken since. Another conspicuous example of the way in which time in these pages has stood still is the original R.A.F. estimate of Luftwaffe losses for 15 September 1940, reproduced unaltered on p. 43.

A separate question is whether the choice of photographs should have remained unaltered. The balance, again, reflects the sequence of newsworthiness in the wartime *Collier's*: thus, the first two and a quarter years of war are covered in 29 pages (pp 31-59), followed by six pages on the attack on Pearl Harbour (pp 60-65) and three on Doolittle's raid on Tokyo (pp 72-4). Most collections of World War II photographs now being published are compiled with the military enthusiast, even specifically the modeller, in mind - indeed, one can only wonder that in the midst of world war so many photographs were taken that might almost have been conceived for this purpose. The *Picture history* is not so conceived: although the diorama enthusiast might find much inspiration here, very few pictures show uniforms, weapons, vehicles, aircraft or ships in the necessary detail for modelling, and those that do have generally unhelpful captions. I searched in vain for any picture of a Spitfire or Bf 109, a Lancaster or a Tiger tank; the Sherman appears fairly often, but even the B-17 is chiefly represented by two indistinct photos of stricken aircraft. There is one picture I found particularly poignant, of a flock of Junkers Ju 52/3ms coming low over the Mediterranean in a vain attempt to avoid attack by Mitchells.

But for the reader whose sympathies are more aroused by human beings than by machines, this collection has a powerful appeal; for the worth of these photographs to *Collier's* depended to a large extent on their 'human interest'. The reader is never tempted to forget that war is a human experience in which the vast majority of participants are facing what they would most wish to avoid. This gives the *Picture history* a value as a record which is not diminished by its unchanged 1946 perspective, and which is hardly attained by any other publication in this field in this price range, setting aside because of the latter consideration the *Life* series, which is conceived on a much larger and more elaborate scale.

Richard Hawkins.

**ARMIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. Otto Von Pivka. Patrick Stephens Ltd. Cambridge. £6.95 Net.**

This book is divided into five sections dealing with the Historical background to the Middle East conflict, an atlas of the M.E. Wars, an account of the armies of the M.E. States and of their equipment and a summary of the latest situation up to 1979.

Although the title would suggest otherwise the greater part of the book (85 out of 168 pages) concerns the Historical background to the M.E. conflict, perhaps understandable in view of the number of wars which have been fought here. I found this part of the book very interesting but was distracted and frustrated by the necessity to skip thirty or forty pages to consult the relevant maps. The maps themselves were clear and a useful guide to the tactical signs was incorporated. It is interesting to note that in all cases the Israeli forces are in blue.

The section dealing with the individual states is logically laid out and generously sprinkled with photographs, many in colour. In each case the population of the country, its estimated GNP and its Defence budget, are listed. These are statistics which could mean a great deal but unfortunately in many cases are worthless. The GNP and Defence budget figures must relate to the same year - or at least to consecutive years, if we are to decide what proportion of GNP is spent on Defence. Despite this there is no date for the Israeli GNP figure, a three year gap between the GNP and Def. figures for the Lebanon and N. Yemen, no dates for the Samali Democratic Republic or S. Yemen and a number of other discrepancies. No doubt there is a good explanation for these omissions but they are nevertheless unfortunate.

Section four deals with the characteristics of the AFV's and small arms of the M.E. and is subdivided according to country of manufacture. It is one of the most fascinating sections of the book and contains a wealth of information.

Overall I believe the book is a welcome, and very necessary addition to the volume of knowledge of the M.E. theatre. It is marred by small inconsistencies and would have benefited greatly from a more thorough editing.

J. S.

**"NO VICTOR, NO VANQUISHED - THE YOM KIPPUR WAR" Edgar O'Ballance. Barrie and jenkins. £8.95.**

Five of Mr. O'Ballance's sixteen books deal with Arab-Israeli wars. He has always been an independent writer, little swayed by fashionable views or prevailing propaganda. One suspects that he sometimes stresses other views **because** they are unfashionable, and that he occasionally is influenced by less ubiquitous propaganda because he feels a need to counter accepted versions.

He has had more access, or has made more use of access, to Arab information than have many writers in English. Many of his maps come from Egyptian sources, including two diagrammatic ones which have appeared in Gen. El Badry's "October War". As with most books on this war Mr. O'Ballance's maps are inadequate for the text - both the Egyptians and Israelis have better ones than appear here. The poor maps may be the reason why Mr. O'Ballance says El Tasa is on the so-called "Artillery Road". Many actions in the 1973 War cannot be properly followed on the maps usually shown. Hertzog's "War of Atonement" is rather better in this respect but is inadequate in showing the roads around Deversoir. Who will give us a list of the Bar Lev forts and strong-points, showing **both** Egyptian and Hebrew names?

The author says that "after the second cease-fire . . . came the myth makers". the book's title gives his verdict on the war. His final analytical chapter is valuable; it gives what he sees as the lessons about weapons, tactics and leaders. He judges that Sadat, Ismail and (especially) Gamassy remained cool on the Egyptian side - but Shazli did not. The top Israeli generals did not pull together. The "staunchest figure" on that side was Mrs. Meir. The Israelis retained armour and air superiority. The Syrian Generals "were less effectual than the Egyptians". Large-scale surprise "can still be achieved in modern times". Tremendous equipment losses and ammunition expenditure occurred and will happen again.

His closing paragraph mentions the Crusaders. They had, for their time, an advanced technology. Their armour was lured into an uphill charge at Hattin and their castles fell one by one. The analogy is, perhaps, too facile.

**PORTRAITS IN LEADERSHIP. Barry O'Brien. Eigse Na Mainistreach. Publications Fermoy. Paperback 122pp. Sketch Maps.**

Comdt. Barry O'Brien a thoughtful, painstaking retired Irish Army Officer has produced a concise little book on seven Irish leaders from 1357 to 1922. He defines leadership as the means to influence others "to get other people to do what they don't want to do and like it" or as the art of inspiring a person to give of his utmost, or again, of being prominent in championing a cause. The Irish-US General Sherman expressed it emperically when he defined it as "the guy that gets there fastest with the mostest". There is also drivership which has numerous devotees; however this need not detain us as it is clearly the opposite to what the Author had in mind in the seven portraits in this book.

He quotes various famous men as typifying these qualities, but omits Napoleon who once said "The moral is to the physical as one to three". In his own horrendous way Hitler was a leader who misapplied the Jesuit precept that "the end justifies the means".

So we have Art MacMurragh Kavanagh who twisted King Richard II's tail before being superseded by the war like Henry V. Then there was Red Hugh O'Donnel who made life very uncomfortable for Elizabeth I. He defeated all the forces sent against him, including the Royal favourite Essex. He was poisoned on a visit to the King of Spain.

Owen Roe O'Neill was another who led the English a dance. He steered a course between the imbroglio of the Confederation of Kilkenny. He decisively beat a mixed force of Anglo-Scots that had changed sides at Benburb in 1646. As the Author speculates, it is a pity he did not live to tackle Cromwell.

Perhaps the most engaging member in this septet is Michael Collins, the Big Fellow, and still within the memory of many people alive today. He certainly fulfils all Barry O'Brien's criteria as a leader. Born in Cork in 1890 he was taught by Fenians from whom he acquired his republican ideals. Following service in the London Post Office he returned to Dublin and joined the GAA and the IRB. In 1916 sharing the view that "Englands adversity would be Irelands opportunity" he joined Pearse and Connelly in the GPO. Interned in Frognoch he was released in 1917 and threw himself into the struggle for independence. The subsequent War of Independence from 1919 to the Truce of July 1921 were characterized by Collins' amazing capacity to plan organise and execute a wide variety of complex tasks. He could be as ruthless as his English counter parts, i.e. the Murder Squad. He had a mole among the staff in Dublin Castle and could ride the streets of Dublin openly on a bicycle with a price of £10,000 on his head. He attended the vital meetings in London that lead up to the forming of the Irish Free State whilst De Valera adopted an ambivalent role back in Dublin. In 1922 Collins adhered to the provisions of the Treaty and enlisted many ex WW I officers and men into the Free State Army. The exact details of his death in ambush on 22 August 1922 remains a mystery, but there is no doubt that Ireland lost a leader and stateman of De-Gaulle like stature.

Finally, according to all his hagiographers St. Kevin of Glendaloch was also a great leader. Perhaps Comdt. O'Brien will include him in his next volume?

H. E. D. H.

**DEATH OF A DIVISION. Charles Whiting. Pp.158. London. Frederick Warne, 1980. No price marked.**

On the morning of 10 December 1944 the US 106 Infantry Division took over front lines positions in the Belgian Ardennes mountains. It was the first time they had been so near to the enemy since leaving the States in October 1944. The formation they relieved, the 2 Infantry Division, were

> amazed at the appearance of the men from the incoming unit. They were equipped with the maze of equipment that only replacements fresh from the States would have dared to call their own.

Six days later the full weight of Hitler's last offensive, the Battle of the Bulge, fell on this green and inexperienced division. It broke and two of its regiments, the 422 Infantry and 423 Infantry were surrounded and later surrendered after very little fighting. The commanding officers of the regiments suffered harshly for their decision taken for humane reasons to save life.

> In the POW camp Colonel Cavender of the 423 Infantry was humiliated by his junior officers who spat in his path and refused to salute or take his orders until the German camp commandant intervened on his behalf.

Charles Whiting, himself a participant in the bitter winter battle, concludes that the men of the 106 Division lacked pride in themselves and confidence in their leadership,

> the young men trapped on the freezing heights of the Snow Eifel that night had been let down by the military machine which had snatched them from their homes only a few months before. It had not turned the carefree habitues of drugstore counters, drive-in movies and baseball games into real soldiers, with that pride in themselves and their unit which is known as *esperit de corps.*

But the authors harshest words are reserved for the divisional commander, Major-General Alan Jones, fifty two years old;

> he had spent the whole of his adult life in the US Army, a quarter of a century preparing for a war. Year in and year out - he had plodded through the boring tasks that make up the life of a peacetime soldier in some God-forsaken garrison town. He had sweated through the morning parades in the harsh sun of Texas, hiked through the choking dust of midwestern manoeuvres - listened to the same people making the same boring small talk in half a hundred similar officer's clubs. To find out in one short week that it had all been for nothing, that he was a failure as a soldier.

What a professional obituary.

Frank Forde.

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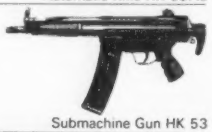

Submachine Gun HK 53

Machine Gun HK 21A1

Light Machine Gun HK 11A1

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